

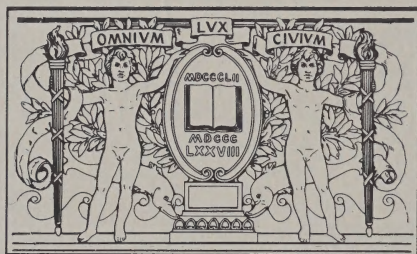
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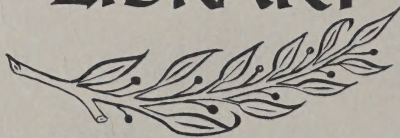
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Wethersfield*







# *The History of Ancient Wethersfield*

Volume I

Sherman W. Adams  
Henry R. Stiles

A facsimile of the 1904 edition  
With a new foreword by John C. Willard

New Hampshire Publishing Company, Somersworth  
in collaboration with the  
Wethersfield Historical Society  
1974



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# Foreword

Two and a half generations—the biblical life span of three score years and ten—have passed since Dr. Stiles edited the writings of Wethersfield's town historian Sherman Wolcott Adams.

*The History of Ancient Wethersfield*, published in 1904, is a remarkable exposition not only of Wethersfield history but of life in a very active American community from colonial times to the Civil War. This work is all the more remarkable in that it was not written as a Wethersfield history but as a series of articles published by Judge Adams in the *Weekly Farmer*. Dr. Stiles edited these into the most useful book ever published on the history of this town whose vision extended far beyond its own borders.

It was here in the Connecticut Valley that the "Fundamental Orders"—the principles of government that formed the framework of the later United States Constitution—were established. Here in Wethersfield lived Colonel John Chester whose regiment saved the colonial forces at Bunker Hill from disastrous rout thereby proving that American Troops could withstand the assaults of trained professional soldiers.

Here also lived Silas Deane, a most resourceful patriot who foresaw the strategic importance of Fort Ticonderoga and organized the expedition which captured it. The cannon seized there, when transported to Boston, drove the British from that city. Sent in secrecy to France to secure aid, Deane managed to obtain a shipload of needed supplies and sent it to America in time to insure victory at the Battle of Saratoga (had Burgoyne succeeded in marching to New York at that point, New England would have been cut off from the other colonies making it highly doubtful that the Revolution could have succeeded). And, while in France under the noses of British agents, Deane went on to secure supplies for the American army of 30,000 men. He also prepared the way for Franklin's successful mission to Paris which brought the French into the war on the colonial side.

The first settlers in Wethersfield were lured by reports of cleared level fertile fields and meadows. For more than two centuries farming was the chief industry although the nearness of the river gave birth to a shipbuilding and mercantile trade. Change began after the Civil War and accelerated. In 1904 when this history was published, Wethersfield was still a relatively rural village with many farms and few businesses. There were macadam highways, but no concrete sidewalks, no public water supply, no sewers, no high school, and no town office building. Grocery stores were small; there was no meat market. The fire department, the oldest volunteer company in the United States, was efficient, but for police we had only constables. Trolley cars ran to Broad Street Green and people went to Hartford on the steam railroad. Steamships from Hartford to New York sailed by the town on the river.



Now in 1974, Wethersfield has become a town of nearly 30,000 people but it has not lost its viewpoint of a self-sufficient New England community.

The publication of the history in 1904 stimulated an interest in the town's past which continued to grow. The tercentenary celebration in 1934 reinforced the public's appreciation of the town's past and of the 150 homes built before 1800. This book was an invaluable aid in carrying out research upon these homes. The surge of historic interest that followed upon publication of *The History of Ancient Wethersfield* resulted in a general improvement in the appearance of the town. Some eyesores were eliminated and property in general was better cared for. Old houses began to be renovated and painted while the Village Improvement Association curbed and graded many little greens at road intersections. At the time of the tercentenary, the Wethersfield Historical Society was formed. The next important step was the institution of the historic district managed by a commission which not only maintains the old homes in their proper aspect but also protects all properties within the district from improper architectural changes.

The town has changed from a village largely populated by the descendants of old families to what would be regarded as a city in many sections of our country. Unfortunately, most of the names of the early settlers have disappeared, but some of their descendants remain, bearing other names. New people have built their dwellings on old farm lands and are taking a vital part in our town's life. The Wethersfield Historical Society, for instance, is largely made up of young people. They may have no roots in Wethersfield, or in the United States for that matter, but they take pride in the history and traditions of the old town. This is a firm foundation for future years, an assurance that Wethersfield will remain a good town to live in.

Wethersfield is a treasurehouse of early architecture. It is this aspect of our past that is perhaps most easily appreciated. But our past is much more than architecture and its remarkable story is delineated with care and integrity in *The History of Ancient Wethersfield*. Judge Adams wrote from original documents and during his long life in Wethersfield he talked with and lived among people who remembered the times before the Revolution. Who but he could have gathered the history contained in these volumes compiled by Dr. Stiles.

John C. Willard

Wethersfield, Connecticut  
May, 1974

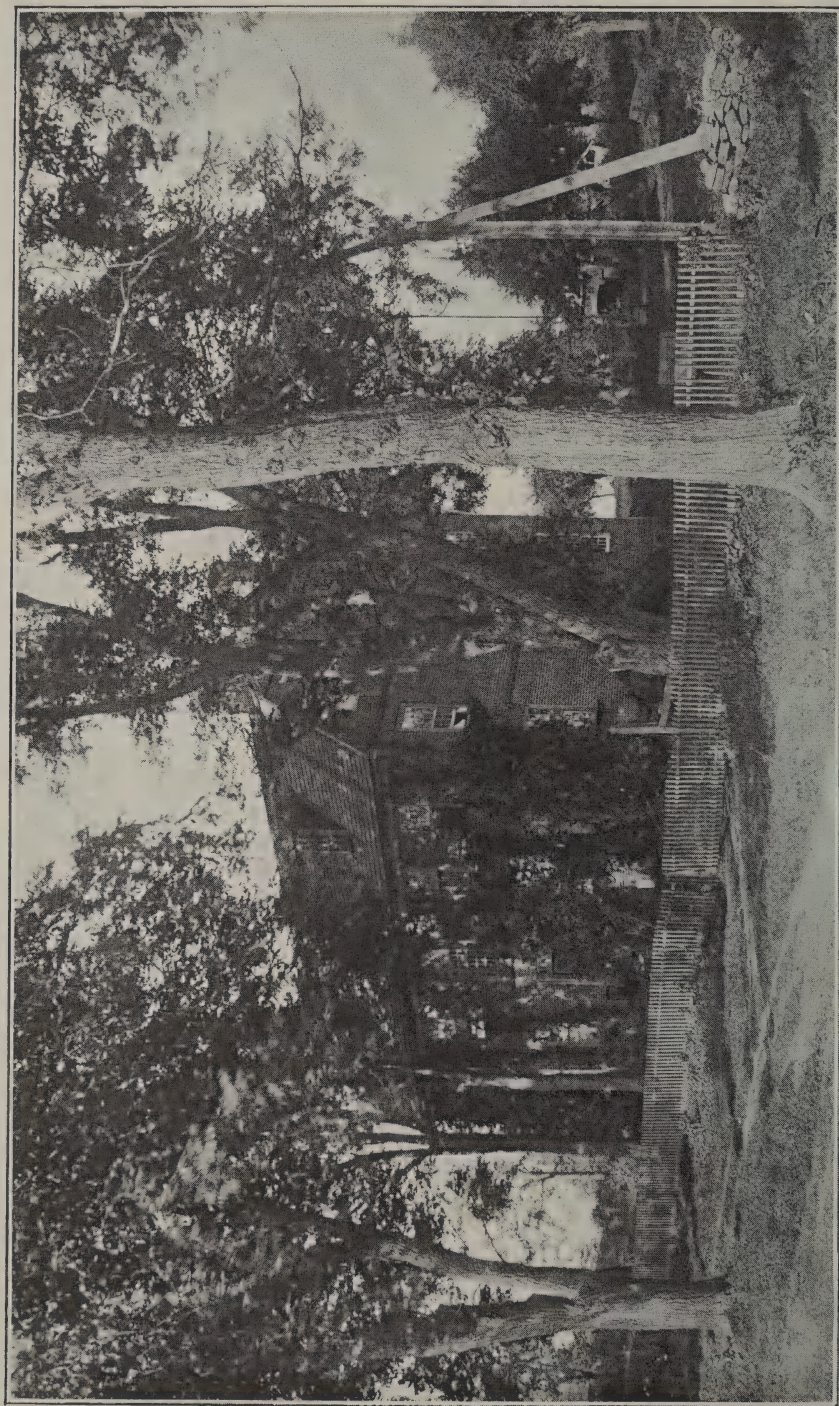






*The  
History of  
Ancient  
Wethersfield*





THE OLD ROBBINS' MANSION, AT ROCKY HILL.

*By Courtesy of Philiman W. Robbins, Esq.*

THE HISTORY OF  
ANCIENT WETHERSFIELD  
CONNECTICUT

COMPRISING THE PRESENT TOWNS OF  
WETHERSFIELD, ROCKY HILL, AND  
NEWINGTON; AND OF GLASTONBURY  
PRIOR TO ITS INCORPORATION IN 1693,  
FROM DATE OF EARLIEST SETTLE-  
MENT UNTIL THE PRESENT TIME

BASED UPON THE MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS OF THE LATE  
JUDGE SHERMAN W. ADAMS,

AND

RECAST, ENLARGED, AND EDITED

BY

HENRY R. STILES, A.M., M.D.

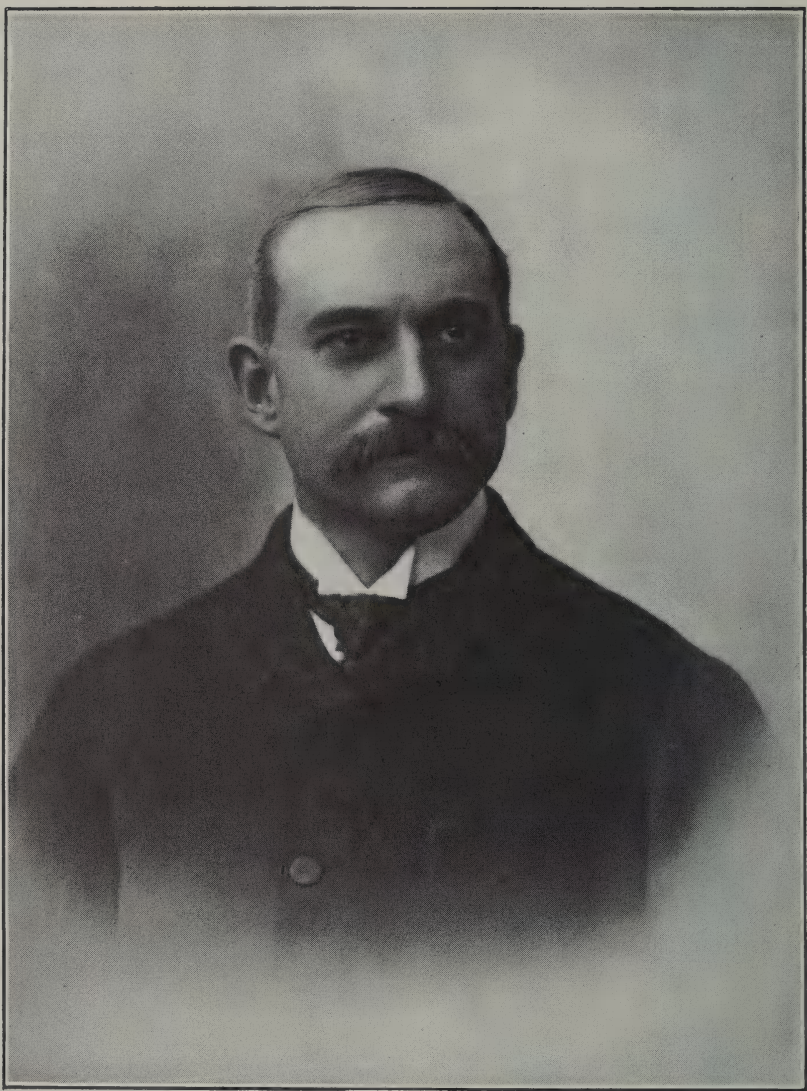
AUTHOR OF THE HISTORY AND GENEALOGIES OF ANCIENT WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

VOLUME I.—HISTORY



NEW YORK  
THE GRAFTON PRESS  
MCMIII





JAMES STILLMAN

TO  
JAMES STILLMAN, Esq.,  
OF NEW YORK CITY

A GRANDSON OF WETHERSFIELD,  
BY WHOSE LIBERALITY THE  
PUBLICATION OF THIS HISTORY  
WAS MADE POSSIBLE, THESE  
VOLUMES ARE RESPECTFULLY  
DEDICATED .





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## PREFACE TO VOLUME I.

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THE *historical* portion of this work must be considered as mainly due to the labors of the late Judge SHERMAN WOLCOTT ADAMS. A love of antiquarian studies, especially those relating to his native town, Wethersfield, led him, during many years of his life, to make her history his special study; and his intimate acquaintance with the town and its inhabitants, combined with his legal training, rare industry and tact in the pursuit of facts, had enabled him to collect an immense amount of valuable matter, which could scarcely have been so completely gathered by another hand. A small portion of the results of these labors, have been given to the public from time to time, in the form of interesting contributions to the Hartford and Wethersfield newspapers; or, as papers read before the Connecticut Historical Society, of which he was an active and esteemed member. But, professional duties had to be attended to, ill health interposed still further delays, and, finally, death laid its hand upon him, before he could realize the pleasure of seeing his work completed and in print.

When, I learned of his death, some months after the event, I felt at once an earnest desire to take up the work where he had left it—and to “keep his memory green,” by completing it as a monument to him.

My proposition to that effect, made to his nephews and literary executors, Messrs. HENRY S. and BENJAMIN ADAMS, was by them most courteously considered, and generously acceded to; and I was placed (without any embarrassing restrictions as to use) in possession of an immense collection of manuscript—consisting of notes and copies from original sources of information, letters, maps, plans, books, pamphlets, chapters of his intended history, in all stages of completion, etc.—which, by their very amount and inchoate condition, might well have appalled one not accustomed to such matters—especially one, who, like myself, up to that time, had never stepped foot in Wethersfield.

Previous experience of a somewhat similar kind; as well as an intimate knowledge of what is needed in a work of this character, has, however, helped me to take up and carry on the labors of one with whom, in life, I was not personally acquainted; and to bring it to a state of completion which I think would satisfy his wishes if he were alive to see it. In doing this, I have endeavored to place myself in his place; and, although, of necessity, there has been



much cutting and carving, much re-arranging, condensing and again enlarging of his material, still I have faithfully endeavored that the thought and intent of the dead author should appear in every line; and, *as much as possible in his own language*. Where I have had occasion to differ with him (which has been but seldom) or to interpolate matter not his own, I have generally done so within brackets, thus [ ], and with my own initials. During this reconstruction of his work, I have learned to respect his earnest enthusiasm and rare qualifications for historical investigation; and am thankful that I have been permitted to perpetuate his memory in the annals of Wethersfield, by thus bringing out his posthumous work.

As to the *Genealogical* portion of this work, I must be held almost entirely responsible for it. While Judge Adams, so far as collecting some material for it, had not overlooked it—yet his tastes did not altogether run that way, and his collections had been but small in amount.

I have planned this work on the same lines as those of my *History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor*, published in 1892. But, I do not pretend to have made such a history of Wethersfield, as he would have made. Much of the information which he had acquired, died with him. I find among his papers drafts and schedules of subjects, treated so in detail, that it would have required a lifetime—longer than that allotted to him—to have satisfactorily completed it, as he had begun. To appreciate this, the reader has only to turn to the Appendices of this volume (especially Nos. III, V, VI, VII), which are each monographs, worked up with infinite pains, upon special subjects connected with the old town, and treated with such antiquarian zeal and erudition, that while they may not claim the attention of the general reader, yet are of such intrinsic value as to recommend their preservation in this manner.

Perhaps, even a sense of this began to dawn upon him in the midst of his work; for there is something of “the touch of the dead hand” among his papers, which causes one to think that it was laid aside (temporarily—as he may have thought and hoped) some time before his death.

It seems proper, now, that I should mention some of the

*Original Sources of information as to Wethersfield History*. These have been

1. *Land Records* of the Town, nominally so labeled and considered, commencing in 1640, and extending to the present days in a series of *fifty-seven* volumes. We say this set is “nominally” devoted to land

records, deeds, leases, mortgages, etc.; but the first five volumes (1640-1737) also have, plentifully interspersed throughout their pages, records of *Births, Marriages* and *Deaths*, placed, apparently, wherever the clerk could find a convenient space to enter them.

2. *Birth, Marriage and Death Records*—so labeled, in *six* volumes; the first entry of Vol. I, being of a death in November, 1692, the last two, a birth in 1727, and a marriage in 1751—also, records of cattle, “ear-marks,” and an order of the Court relative to Indians, made at its session of May 17, 1660. Vol. II, on its first page has a marriage record of 1726, one of 1828, and a birth record of 1786. The book was probably opened in 1825, and has been filled in, but not consecutively. On its last page is a 1809 marriage and three 1828 marriages on opposite page. Vol. III, first page, has an 1830 marriage and a birth in 1887 on last page. Vol. IV, runs from 1847 to August, 1851. Vol. V begins January, 1855, and ends in 1868. Vol. VI begins January, 1869, and is in present use. We have thus particularized concerning these volumes, that our readers may have some idea of the very unsystematic fashion in which they have been kept. Their want of continuity as to time, renders them exasperatingly difficult of reference.

3. *Town Votes*, being the recorded proceedings of the proprietors and inhabitants of the Town, at their annual and special meetings, *five* volumes, beginning 1647, and to the present time.

The first volume of these Town Votes (1647-1717), as also the first volume of Land Records (1640-1653), were carefully copied by Judge Adams, and the copies are kept in the safe, with the originals, in the Town Clerk's office.

4. *Records of the First Society in Wethersfield*. Page 00, of the first volume of these records, contains the following note: “Mem°. The votes of the First Society in Wethersfield from the time when Wethersfield was divided into Societies, until Dec. 15, 1734, are to be found in the book commonly called the 2d Book of Town Votes and Acts, being interspersed in said Book, from page 20 to page 96, with the votes of the Town, and also the votes of the Proprietors of the Great Meadow and Plain.” This first volume begins record 16 Dec., 1734, and ends 12 Jan., 1846; the second volume commences 1845 and is in present use. The First *Society* of Wethersfield was so called until January, 1822, since called *First Ecclesiastical Society*. The Records of the first School Society are not kept in the Town Clerk's office.

5. Various *other volumes of Records*, such as old *Assessors' Lists*; “Book of Record of Burial Lots in the Cemetery of the First School Society, beginning 1882,” etc., etc.

6. *Records of the First Church in Wethersfield*—viz., of *Members, Births, Deaths and Marriages*. The earliest of these records, were undoubtedly carried off by the seceding portion of the Church which removed to Stamford, 1640-1, and which considering itself as *the* original Church, felt entitled to have possession of what we of Wethersfield would now be very glad to have, with which to piece out our Town's earliest history. Probably, also, the Wethersfield Church sustained another and similar loss of records, by the removal of the majority of the congregation under Rev. Mr. Russell, to Hadley, in 1659-60, and from the same cause, viz., the claim of the seceding Church that *it* was the Church of Wethersfield. (See pp. 162 to 164.)

At all events, we find an utter absence of any Wethersfield Church records until the coming of Rev. STEPHEN MIX, who, however, though he came in 1693, did not commence his entries until 1697-8, and ended in 1735, though he died three years later. This record has been copied for us by that accomplished genealogist, Mr. EDWIN STANLEY WELLES, of Newington, and was intended to be given as an Appendix of this work, but having been since printed in the *Connecticut Magazine*, our readers may find reference to it there.

The Rev. JAMES LOCKWOOD, kept a record, mostly of baptisms, from some time in October, 1739, until March 3d, 1744-5, which Judge Adams copied, and of which he says, that the original record "was written in an unbound pamphlet, on unruled paper—sheets of about legal cap size. Only 53 pages remain of the original. It is in a very fragmentary condition—and on the margin much of it has become obliterated, apparently by some acid, which has bleached the ink and rendered the paper brittle—there are a few breaks in the record, due probably to the loss of some of its leaves." Its record matter, as far as legible, has been preserved by us, incorporated in our genealogies.

These *Mix* and *Lockwood* records appear to us to have been not so much Church records proper, as private diaries such as used to be kept by the earlier divines of New England, wherein membership admissions, disciplinary dealings with members and baptismal records, and other professional and clerical memoranda were much mingled—and frequently in a "short-hand" known only to themselves.

After Rev. Mr. Lockwood's pastorate, there ensues a gap of 29 years in the records, after which they commence again, having been carefully kept by Rev. JOHN MARSH, from February, 1774, to September, 1821; by Rev. C. J. TENNEY, to 1 July, 1835, and so down by successive pastors to the present day.

7. *Records of the Second Church in Wethersfield, Parish of New-*



ington.—These have been preserved beyond peradventure of loss, by ROGER WELLES, Esq., of Newington, in his excellent *Annals* of that Town—published 1874.

8. *Records of the Third Church of Wethersfield—Stepney Parish* (now Rocky Hill) commencing about 1765, under its second pastor REV. BURRAGE MERRIAM, who died 1776, and continued by Rev. JOHN LEWIS, 1781-1792, and by Rev. CALVIN CHAPIN, D. D., 1794-1851, who found them in a sad state of preservation, and with pious care copied them and continued them until the time of his death. These have been carefully copied (down to 1856) by Mr. E. STANLEY WELLES, and have proved of great value in our genealogical volume.

9. We have had copies, furnished by Mr. BENJAMIN ADAMS, of the following *Record of Deaths and Burials*, kept by private parties resident in Wethersfield, viz.:

- (a) Records from 1813-17, by Huldah Adams.
- (b) Records from 1813-16, by Samuel Galpin—stonecutter.
- (c) Records for 1859, '63, '64, '65, '66, by Laura Dickinson, and

10. *Notes taken from old Account books* of Wethersfield merchants and tradesmen, by Benj. Adams—such as

Thomas Hurlbut, 1768-89; Francis & Storrs, 1785-86; Bezaleel Latimer, 1809-15; and others—which furnish many “side-lights” on the history of those days, not otherwise obtainable. (See Chapter XV, Vol. I.)

11. *A Bibliography of Books, Pamphlets and other Printed Matter, relating to Wethersfield (and its Parishes); or written and published by, or in connection with, any of its sons, or residents.* This valuable manuscript (in typewritten form) prepared by Mr. BENJAMIN ADAMS, Assist. Chief of the Dept. of Circulation of the New York Public Library, has been of essential value to our undertaking, as enabling us to illustrate the educational and intellectual character of Wethersfield, especially as Mr. Adams has placed at our disposal many of the now rare publications therein mentioned.

12. *Tombstone Inscriptions* must be classed among original-record-sources of information. For, though frequently unreliable as to the estimates of character which they furnish concerning the deceased whom they commemorate, they yet preserve dates, titles, etc., which confirm other records. Fortunately for us, under the circumstances of health and distance from Wethersfield, which have prevented our personal investigation of these mortuary records—they have been recently carefully copied and admirably preserved by our friend EDWARD SWEETZER TILLOTSON, of Wethersfield, whose fine volume, *Wethersfield Inscrip-*

tions (a complete collection of such from all the burial places included in the towns forming a part of Ancient Wethersfield) has been my right-hand companion in my work.

This work has been accomplished by me under discouraging circumstances of ill-health, and constant interruptions both of a professional and domestic nature. In January, 1900, my invalid wife and myself were evicted from our apartments in New York City by a fire so sudden and fierce that our lives were only saved by our being removed by the firemen, from a second story window; and the precious Wethersfield Manuscripts were unavoidably left, as I supposed, to certain destruction, but were found next day, unharmed and intact—for both of which mercies, my readers, perhaps, will join me in thanking the Lord. In 1901, and again in 1902, I had attacks of a paralytic nature, which have not, however, entirely interfered with my work, though greatly adding to its difficulties.

It is also my pleasant duty to acknowledge the help received from some of Wethersfield's residents whom I have never seen, and probably never shall see in this life. A detailed acknowledgment of such assistance would occupy too many pages of this work; but, as great care has been taken by me (both as a matter of authenticity, as well as from motives of gratitude) to indicate the personal sources from which help has been derived, I may, perhaps, be excused from attempting it.

A very large portion of this help has come to me from sources entirely outside of the old Town itself—from those at a distance—the children and grandchildren, several generations removed—whose hearts turn loyally towards the Mother Town, whence their ancestors came.

Among these, "honorable mention" is due to Messrs. BENJAMIN ADAMS, and his brother, HENRY S. ADAMS, of Brooklyn, N. Y., whose acquaintance with their late uncle's work and wishes in relation to it, has enabled them to give me valuable assistance at every point; Mr. FRED M. STEELE and JOHN S. GOODWIN, Esq., of Chicago, Ill., Mr. WILBUR F. WARNER, of St. Louis, Mo., Mr. HAMLIN RUSSELL, of Newark, N. J., Mrs. KATE SEARLE MCCARTNEY, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., Mrs. CAROLINE KEMPER BULKELEY, of Avalon, Bossier Parish, La., Miss HELEN EVERTSON SMITH, of Sharon, Ct., Miss E. E. DANA, of Cambridge, Mass., and her cousin, Miss S. G. DAGGETT, of New Haven, Conn.—"their name is Legion" and my gratitude to them great.

But, there is a little group of Wethersfield residents, all of them personally unknown to me, who have aided me greatly—such as the venerable Mrs. MARY D. MCLEAN, Mr. JARED B. STANDISH of Wethersfield, and Mr. I. N. STANDISH of Bridgeport, Ct., Miss MARY J. HARRIS, Miss

HELEN WOLCOTT, Miss MARY F. STODDARD, Mrs. MARIA H. BURDETT, etc.; and in Messrs. AUSTIN ROBERTSON, and EDWARD S. TILLOTSON, I have had most faithful lieutenants, always prompt and ready to answer any enquiry for local information, to interview people in my behalf or to look up special points, or needed facts—services invaluable to me, under the circumstances which rendered my presence in Wethersfield impossible. Their loyalty to the Old Town has, at all times, proved equal to the strain of the calls which I have been obliged to make upon their time and good nature.

In Hartford, another group of friends of Wethersfield have worked in perfect unison with the aims of this undertaking. Mr. CHARLES W. MANWARING, who kindly furnished me with notes from his digests of wills, inventories and papers in the *Hartford County Probate Office*; Mr. WILLIAM F. J. BOARDMAN, to whom I am much indebted for the loan of manuscripts, etc., and especially for a very large proportion of the illustrations which grace this work (many of which were expressly engraved for it and at his expense); Mrs. ANN C. HAWLEY, Miss MARY K. TALCOTT, Miss ALICE H. STILLMAN, Miss SARAH G. WILLIAMS, Mrs. CLARA SEELY PRINCE, Mr. PHILEMON W. ROBBINS, Mr. HOMER W. BRAINARD, *et alios*.

Within the five years which have covered the final preparation of this work, three of its helpers have passed from earthly companionship, viz.: Dr. RUFUS W. GRISWOLD, the “beloved physician” of Rocky Hill, whose memory will be preserved in connection with our Chapter XIX; Commander EDWARD HOOKER, U. S. N. (retired), who rendered valuable assistance in the Griswold and Hooker genealogies, and ROGER WELLES, Esq., the able lawyer, whose valuable *Annals of Newington*, have been supplemented in this volume by the excellent history of his native town, contained in our Chapter XVIII. Diligent workers in the annals of the Past, faithful to every duty in the Present, who can doubt that they will be blessed in the eternal rest and enjoyment of the Future into which they have passed.

Three gentlemen of Wethersfield have very generously contributed to the *illustration* of this History, by their skill as photographers, viz.: Messrs. J. B. STANDISH, ALBERT MORGAN and FRANK HAVENS. The *Connecticut Magazine* has also most obligingly placed at our disposal many of the fine Wethersfield illustrations which have appeared in its pages.

Mr. JAMES STILLMAN, of New York City, a grandson of the Old Town, receives, in our dedicatory page, an all too insufficient acknowledgment of his kindly assistance, and LEMUEL A. WELLES, Esq., of the



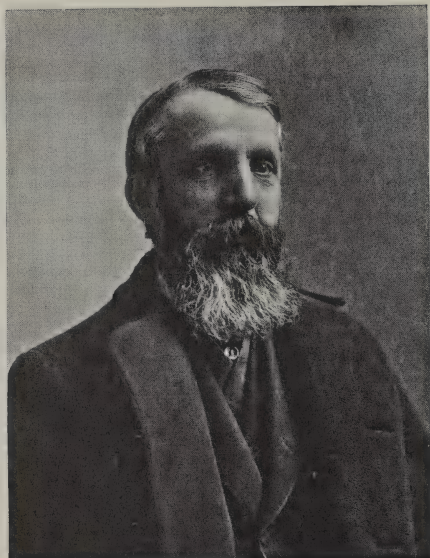
same city, son of Wethersfield, has given freely of his time, professional knowledge and tact to the preliminary negotiations and arrangements for the publishing of the History.

Nor do we feel that it is out of place to say, here, that Mr. FRED. H. HITCHCOCK, Treasurer and Manager of *The Grafton Press*, has, at every stage of this History's progress through the press, manifested not only the business interest of a careful publisher, but the cordial solicitude of a friend indeed.

Over forty years, more or less, continuous labor in this line of historic research, prevents me from expecting that this work will be found entirely free from fault or blemish. I can only assert that every possible care has been taken to avoid errors. It is a conservative estimate that the whole matter of these two volumes has been re-written, at least, four times—and that without the aid of a typewriter; and I, for one, am glad to see it permanently embodied in type.

Henry R. Stiles. A.M. W.D.





*S. W. Adams*



## SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ.

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### AN APPRECIATION.

Gentleness is one of the most beautiful of all human attributes. God-given, it makes for good in whatever relation of life it is manifested. Unfortunately, it is not until the face that bore the hall mark of gentleness has smiled its last smile that the surpassing beauty of this attribute dawns upon the most of those who year after year have felt the warmth of its sunshine, and then—and then comes full appreciation. Fortunately, on the other hand, he who is truly gentle lives so far above in appreciation; that no matter what the laurels of strenuousness may be, gentleness remains to him always worth the while. It is this gentleness which above all else characterized SHERMAN WOLCOTT ADAMS. Of gentle birth, gentle bearing, gentle speech and gentle judgment, he exhaled the very perfume of gentleness wherever his quiet way took him. Hand in hand with it went such an intense love of nature in all her manifold workings as it is given to few men to possess.

Both gentleness and love of nature were a precious heritage from the parents of Judge Adams, who, as had been the case with his ancestors for generations, was born in Wethersfield, May 6th, 1836. His father, Welles Adams—a merchant in what was then considered comfortable circumstances—was a man of the very highest standing in the community, while his mother—before her marriage Mary Griswold, of the Griswoldville section of the old town—was a fine type of the New England woman of two generations ago. As a small boy he found “books in the running brooks,” the while he trudged off to the “Red Schoolhouse” where his education began; and, by the time that he had passed through the Cromwell Institute, there were for him “sermons in stones, and good in everything.” Returning to Wethersfield to take a clerkship in his father’s store, the law began to share with the love of nature in his heart; and, before long he found himself studying in the office of Heman H. Barbour and Thomas C. Perkins, in Hartford, later going to the Harvard Law School, where he took his degree in 1861.

With the breaking out of the Civil War there came another dominating force into the young man’s life, and the love of country flowered

into a desire for service which could be satisfied only by enlistment. The sea rather than the field called him, however. Commissioned by Secretary Welles as an assistant paymaster, he entered the Navy in March, 1862, and was attached to the gunboat *Somerset*, doing duty in the Gulf of Mexico. This service in the War lasted until 1864, when he resigned to take up the practice of the law in Hartford. By 1866 his ability was so highly esteemed by the Republican Party that, although he had slight desire for any office within the gift of the people, he was sent by his native town to the House of Representatives, where he introduced the resolution providing for one capital in the State of Connecticut—a measure which passed but failed to receive the necessary two-thirds majority the following year. Subsequently he attained further prominence by the authorship of many of the laws in the statute book, the most important being the “judgment lien law.” He was also author of the resolution providing for a topographical survey of the State—which was passed in 1889. Meanwhile there had developed in the mind of the attorney a longing to broaden his general education by drinking of the French and German languages at the original fountains. As a result a year, covering a part of 1868 and 1869 was spent in Europe, where the aptitude of the student found expression in the translation for publication of Eugene Tenot’s story of the *coup d’etat* of 1851. In time he added Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Danish and Portuguese, thus acquiring a considerable reputation as a linguist before he reached middle age. Further proficiency in the practice of the law after his return from Europe brought about his appointment, in 1877, as Assistant Judge of the Hartford Police Court, in which capacity he served for six consecutive years.

The illness which Judge Adams bore with characteristic patience for fifteen years or so before its fatal termination, coupled with failing hearing, led him at length to gradually drop the law the while he took up the crowning work in his service of the public—the development of the Hartford park system on broad lines. Here, after his appointment to the presidency of the Board of Park Commissioners in 1884, his undying love of nature found its highest expression. During his administration, Bushnell Park—the beautiful tract which frames the stately white marble Capitol—was not only improved in many ways through the exercise of the conventional official duties, but by means of a rare devotion, it was given such touches as can only come direct from the hand of a true nature-worshipper. In this category may be placed the beautifying of the banks of the little

pond by planting asters and other wild flowers along the water's edge. It was also due to his assiduousness in the performance of his duties that the park trees were all catalogued and such additions made as would thrive in that climate. Judge Adams continued to be active in park matters until within about a year of his death, his office having been changed to that of secretary when the Park Board amendment to the city charter was passed in 1895. This activity was, however, gradually lessened by a state of health which made it impossible for him to give to the new parks in Hartford's fine system the personal devotion so lavishly showered upon the one which bears the honored name of Horace Bushnell.

Of Judge Adams' attainments as an antiquarian, particularly as a student of the history of the town which gave him birth—the work which Dr. Stiles has with such painstaking care bought from an unfinished state into a completed record, bears eloquent witness. It was perhaps natural that a lover of historical research whose paternal line in Wethersfield went back more than two centuries—to the first Benjamin Adams—and whose descent further allied him to such early representatives of old Connecticut families there as Michael Griswold, Governor Thomas Welles, Ensign William Goodrich, Ensign John Nott and John Robbins, Gentleman, as well as Henry Wolcott, the Windsor settler, should have wished that to him might be the task of setting forth for the first time the complete story of the oldest town in Connecticut. None but a man whose character was not marred by selfishness, however, would have entered upon such a stupendous undertaking purely as a labor of love—of love for the work of doing well what needed to be done and yet was in danger of being forever neglected. But this work in behalf of Wethersfield, entered upon some twenty years before his death, by no means represented Judge Adams' historical labors, his painstaking research finding no limit until it had passed from town to state, and from state to all New England. For Connecticut he recovered her rolls of the French and Indian Wars from the effects of Governor Thomas H. Seymour, and after months of application in the restoring of the much-dilapidated papers, he placed them in the State's archives. He frequently prepared valuable papers for the meetings of the Connecticut Historical Society, with which he was prominently identified; he contributed several of the most important chapters to the *Memorial History of Hartford County*, and, in short, he was one of the few men to whom it was believed safe to intrust the writing of a history of his native state, should such a work be undertaken. His library



of Connecticut books, which was eventually merged into the Southport collection, was one of the finest ever brought together.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sherman Wolcott Adams came into the world as the violets were bringing to earth the deep blue of heaven. It therefore seems peculiarly fitting that the passing of such an ardent lover of nature should have been at the time of year when the last of the fringed gentians were returning the azure whence it came—that a life begun with the joyousness of spring should end with the fullness of autumn. This life, which was the very apotheosis of gentleness, flickered out October 19th, 1898, and two days later he who had taken upon himself the chronicling of the deeds of “the rude forefathers of the hamlet” was laid to sleep where they so long had slept—in Wethersfield church-yard.

HENRY SHERMAN ADAMS.

## ABBREVIATIONS USED.

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*abt.*—about  
*ac.*—acre  
*acc.*—according to  
*ae.*—aged  
*auth.*—on the authority of  
*app.*—appointed  
*appr.*—appraised  
*b.*—born  
*beq.*—bequest, or bequeathed  
*bp.*—baptized  
*batt.*—battalion  
*bro.*—brother  
*btwn.*—between  
*bo't.*—bought  
*bu.*—buried  
*Capt.*—Captain, or *Capt.*—captured  
*ch.*—church; *chh.*—churches  
*ch'n.*—children  
*Col.*—Colony, or Colonial  
*comm.*—commission  
*connect.*—connected  
*Conn.*—Connecticut  
*Cont.*—Continental  
*Co.*—County  
*cr.*—credited  
*Ct* -Court  
*d.*—died  
*dea.*—deacon  
*Dart.*—Dartmouth College  
*dau.*—daughter  
*dec.*—deceased  
*dth.*—death  
*des.*—deserted  
*disch.*—discharged  
*East.*—Eastbury parish in Glastonbury  
*Eng.*—England  
*East Hadd.*—East Haddam  
*E. Htfd.*—East Hartford  
*emig.*—emigrated  
*Ens.*—ensign  
*exc.*—exchanged  
*est.*—estate  
*enl.*—enlisted  
*exam.*—examined  
*fam.*—family  
*ftr.*—father  
*fm.*—from  
*Far.*—Farmington  
*Fr.*—French  
*gen. or geneal.*—generation, or genealogy  
*Gen. Ct.*—General Court

*gd-f.*—grandfather  
*gd-s.*—grandson  
*gd-ch.*—grandchild  
*gd-dau.*—granddaughter  
*Glast.*—Glastonbury  
*grad.*—graduated  
*Hadd.*—Haddam  
*H. C.*—Harvard College  
*Htfd.*—Hartford  
*ho.*—home  
*ho-lot.*—home-lot  
*hon.*—honorable, or honored  
*ho-d.*—homestead  
*Ind.*—Indian  
*inf.*—infant, or infancy  
*inhab.*—inhabitant  
*invent.*—inventory  
*k.*—killed  
*Ld. Rec.*—Land record  
*ld.*—land; *lds.*—lands  
*ldd.*—landed property  
*Leg.*—Legislature  
*leg.*—legacy  
*L. I.*—Long Island  
*m.*—married  
*marr.*—married, or marriage  
*memb.*—member  
*ment.*—mentioned  
*Mix Mss.*—Mix Ch. Rec.  
*mcht.*—merchant  
*mdze.*—merchandise  
*mir.*—mother's right—as applied to a baptism, signifies that the inf. rec'd the rite, through the claim of his mother, (father, or grand-parents, as the case might be) as a member of the church—under the old "Half-Way Covenant" system.  
*mort.*—mortuary  
*Midd.*—Middletown, Ct.  
*N. Y.*—New York  
*New.*—Newington, Ct.  
*neph.*—nephew  
*N. C. R.*—Newington Church Records  
*nr.*—near  
*occup.*—occupied  
*ord.*—ordained  
*per.*—perhaps  
*pet.*—petition, or petitioner  
*poss.*—possibly  
*possess.*—possessed, or possessions

*prob.*—probably  
*ppy.*—property  
*pub.*—public, or published  
*Q-M.*—quarter-master  
*Rec.* or *Recs.*—record, records  
*rep.*—represented, or representative  
*res.*—residence, or resided  
*Revol.*—Revolution, the American  
*rem.*—removed  
*ret.*—returned  
*Ry-H.*—Rocky Hill, Ct.  
*R. H. C.*—Rollin H. Cooke  
*s. p.*—*sine proli*, i. e. without issue  
*Sgt.*—sergeant  
*shp.*—ship  
*slp.*—sloop  
*schr.*—schooner

*S. C. R.*—Stepney Ch. Recs.  
*schl.*—school  
*sett.*—settled, or settler  
*Step.*—Stepney parish  
*unm'd*—unmarried  
*val.*—value, or valued  
*Weth.*—Wethersfield  
*W. Ins.*—Tillotson's *Wethersfield Inscriptions*  
*W. T. V.*—Weth. Town Votes  
*W. Ld. Rec.*—Weth. Land Records  
*wid.*—widow  
*wk.*—week  
*Y. C.*—Yale College  
*y.* or *yr.*—year  
*yg.*—young

# HISTORY OF ANCIENT WETHERSFIELD.

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## CHAPTER I.

### A PRELIMINARY VIEW OF THE EARLY IMMIGRATIONS INTO CONNECTICUT FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

[By SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ].

*Discovery—The First “Adventurers”—Additional Settlers, prior to 1641—The Place of First Settlement—Pyquaug—Indian Owners of the Territory, and Purchases from Them—Indian Names of Localities in Wethersfield—The Survey of the Town—The Naming of the Town—The Civil Distinctions, or Classes, which Formed the Body Politic—The Murder of Mr. John Oldham—The Wethersfield Indian Massacre of 1637—The Pequot Campaign—The Constitution of 1639.*

THE BEST epitomized statement which we have seen of these immigrations and of the relations existing between the three plantations, Windsor, Wethersfield and Hartford, on the Connecticut River, and their mother towns in Massachusetts, is that presented by ROGER WELLES, ESQ., in the *Hartford Daily Courant* for July 29th, 1899. This we take the liberty of using as an introduction to our history of this ancient town.

“Our fathers fled from England to New England to escape from the oppression of the prelates of the established church. They did not object to the union of church and state, which obtained in England, because they inaugurated the same union here; but they did object to the civil power and tyranny exercised by the clergy of the Church of England. When they settled in the Massachusetts Bay, it was as churches with pastors; but, while they called the churches ‘towns’ as their civil distinction, they gave the pastors no civil power, *ex officio*, as was the case in England. The word ‘town’ had a well-settled meaning in England; and when our fathers applied that term to their settlements here, they did so with the signification that it had there acquired.



That signification was well established by law, and our fathers did not attempt to divorce the word 'town' from its old associations.

"THE EARLY DEFINITION OF A TOWN. The first edition of Sir Edward Coke's Commentary upon Littleton was published in his lifetime in 1628. The authority of this work on English Law is unquestioned. He gives the following as the then legal definition of a town (*I. Inst.*, ii. 5): 'It can not be a town in law, unless it hath, or in past time hath had, a church and celebration of divine services, sacraments and burials.' Sir William Blackstone published his Commentaries on the Laws of England in 1765, and he thus defines towns: 'Tithings, towns or villis, are of the same signification in law; and are said to have had, each of them, originally, a church and celebration of divine service, sacraments and burials, though that seems to be rather an ecclesiastical than a civil distinction.' In a foot note to this definition he refers to the above quoted definition of Coke as his authority.

"When our fathers came from Massachusetts to Connecticut, 1635, they came from the three churches of Watertown, Dorchester and Newtown, possessing the secular powers.

"The church was the foundation upon which was erected the civil superstructure of the town, in Massachusetts, as had been the case in England. The evolution of the town is thus described at the present day in England:

"'The *township* is now known by its ecclesiastical name of *parish*, and the *shire* by its Norman name of *county*; but the old identity is still preserved, and the institutions themselves are as much alive to-day, as they were a thousand year ago.' " (Jenks' *English Local Government*, p. 11.)

"The same author says (p. 19): 'The original unit of settlement among the Saxons in England was the *tun* or town, which originally meant simply an enclosure surrounded by a wall or hedge, and the township was merely the area claimed by the town. In process of time, local government in England became almost extinct. It was not till the general break-up of mediaeval conditions brought to the front a condition of appalling magnitude, requiring wholesale treatment, that the *parish vestry* secured a recognized position in secular matters. This great question was the relief of the poor (2d, p. 23); there was no other local machinery available, and it seemed natural to associate the work of relief, which had always been looked upon as one of the primary duties of the church, with an ecclesiastical institution. So the parish became the poor-law unit; the poor-law official, the overseer, was to be chosen from, if not by, the parish vestry; and the funds necessary

to enable him to carry out his duties were to be levied upon the householders of the parish. From the date of the great Poor Law of 1601, we mark the revival of the parish, or township, as an organ of local government. One matter after another, highways, bridges, drainage, police, education, became parochial until all and more than all, the old powers of the town meeting were won back.' (2d, p. 28.)

"Such was the condition of affairs when the Puritans and Pilgrims left England, and, although they fled from English oppression, they did not break away from English laws and English union of church and state. The town in Massachusetts took the place of the parish in England, and was based upon the church. Church members only could be made freeman. The church expenses were raised by rates levied upon householders. The meeting-house was the town hall, where ecclesiastical and civil officers were mingled in local legislation, with no definite line of distinction between them. The meeting-house was located upon the public common and a liberal amount of land was appropriated for its use, where 'horse sheds' and 'Sabbath day houses' were erected, and the train band had its parade ground. Nearby was located the burying ground, also out of the public common. The minister of every church was presented with a gratuity of several acres of the public domain; and the church was given parsonage and land for its support. In Connecticut church and state were not separated until the adoption of the Constitution of 1818.

"THE MIGRATION TO CONNECTICUT. When our fathers removed from Massachusetts to Connecticut, they were careful to obtain the sanction of the General Court of the Bay Colony. This was not granted as soon as desired, and in the summer of 1634, some of the inhabitants of Watertown, impatient of delay,<sup>1</sup> and led by Mr. John Oldham,

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<sup>1</sup> Winthrop (*Hist. New Eng.*, Savage's edit., 2d: I. p. 191) says, under date of 6 May, 1635, "the occasion of their desire to remove, was, for that all towns in the Bay began to be much straitened by their own nearness to one another, and their cattle so much increased." Savage's note to p. 167, says, "In this fifth year of the colony history so sadly crowded was the settlement at Newton, that Watertown was not a mile and a half distant, nor Charlestown more than two miles."

But Hubbard, who having been born in 1621, could well remember the Conn. emigration and the great discussion, *pro* and *con*, to which it gave rise, mentions, (in his *History of New England*, Ed., 1815, pp. 72, etc.) other than these merely material reasons. He says, there was an "*impulsive cause* (as wise men deemed and themselves did not altogether conceal,) viz: "the strong bent of their spirits to move out of the place where they were. Two such eminent stars, such as were Mr. Cotton and Mr. Hooker, both of the first magnitude, though of differing influence, could not well continue in one and the same orb." And, again, at pp. 305-6, after admitting the over crowded state of the Bay settlements as a cause for the

removed to Connecticut, and built their log houses at Wethersfield (Pyquag), which they called Watertown, after the town from which they emigrated.

"On May 6th, 1635, the Massachusetts Court passed the following order: 'There is liberty granted to the inhabitants of Watertown to remove themselves to any place they shall think meet to make choice, provided they continue still under this government.' (*Mass. Col. Rec. I*, i. 46.)

"On June 3d, 1635, the following similar order was passed: 'There is leave granted to the inhabitants of Dorchester for their removal as Watertown hath granted to them. Also, there are three pieces [cannon] granted to the plantations that shall remove to Connecticut, to fortify themselves withal.' (*Mass. Col. Rec. I*, 148.)

"The same Court, Sept. 3, 1635, provided that "there is power granted to any magistrate to swear a *constable* of the plantations at Connecticut, when the inhabitants shall desire the same. (*Mass. Col. Rec. I*).

"Also, it was ordered, that every town upon Connecticut shall have liberty to choose their own constable who shall be sworn by some magistrate of this Court. (*Mass. Col. Rec. I*, 160.)

"Thus the General Court recognized the removal of plantations into Connecticut as early as June, 1635, and denominated them as towns, as early as September, following. There must have been an emigration, between these two dates, of a sufficient number of inhabitants to have warranted this change of language.

"In the *History of Watertown*, by Francis S. Drake, contained in the *History of Middlesex County, Mass.* (Vol. II, 440), occurs this pass-

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Conn. emigration, etc., he goes on to say that the movement "was not a little advanced by the fame and interest of Mr. Hooker, whose worth and abilities had no small influence upon the people of the towns afore mentioned;" and that "the *impulsive* cause, before referred to" did more secretly and powerfully drive on the business. Some men do not well like, at least, can not well bear to be opposed in their judgments and notions, and thence were they not unwilling to remove from under the power, as well as out of the bounds of the Massachusetts. Nature doth not allow two suns in one firmament, and some spirits can as ill bear an equal as others a superior: but whether they have mended themselves by their choice, they are best able to judge, that have had longest experience of another colony. Possibly, it might have been as well for the whole, if they [*i. e.* the Mass. settlements] could have been included in one jurisdiction; for by that means their union together by an incorporation had been much firmer and stronger than by a confederation, as afterwards it came to pass."

From which, our Conn. readers will see that there was about as much "human nature" mixed up in these affairs of their ancestors, as there would probably be today, in similar circumstances.

age: 'Wethersfield, the oldest town in Connecticut, received from Watertown its first considerable emigrations in 1634. Pyquag, its Indian name, was changed in 1635, to Watertown; and later to Wethersfield. May 29, 1635, the following Watertown men went to Wethersfield: Rev. Richard Denton, Robert Reynolds, John Strickland, Jonas Weede, Rev. John Sherman, Robert Coe and Andrew Ward. The two latter afterward settled in Stamford. Leonard Chester, John Finch, Nathaniel Foote, John Oldham, Edward Pearce, John Reynolds, and Robert Rose went before 1642. John Oldham was killed by Indians, while trading with them at Block Island, July 25th, 1636.' The Dorchester (Windsor) and Newtown (Hartford) settlements followed in the same year, 1635; but, says Mr. Welles, it does not appear that special permission was given by the General Court to the inhabitants of Newtown to remove to Connecticut, as had been given to those of Watertown and Dorchester.

"As early as September 4, 1634, they had asked the Court 'that they might have leave to remove to Connecticut. This matter was debated many days and many reasons alleged *pro* and *con*.' But the desired leave was not granted (Winthrop's *Hist. New Eng. I*, 140). The same author tells us, under date of Sept. 13th, 1635, that 'About sixty men, women and little children, went by land towards Connecticut, with their cows, horses and swine, and, after a tedious and difficult journey, arrived safe there.' (This party, we have reason to believe, were Dorchester settlers, see note 1, p. 52, Vol. I, Stiles' *Hist. Windsor*.) The migration to the fertile valley of the Connecticut, could not be restrained. Doubtless, in 1635, many adventurers found their way there of whom no record has come down to us. Early in the spring of 1636 (March 3-13, 1635-6), a formal recognition of the migration was embodied in the commission then issued to govern Connecticut for one year. The reason for its issuance is thus stated. Whereas upon some reason and grounds, there are to remove from this our Commonwealth, and body of the Massachusetts in America, divers of our loving friends, neighbors, freemen and members of Newtown, Dorchester, Watertown and other places, who are resolved to transplant themselves and their estates unto the River of Connecticut, there to reside and inhabit, and, to that end, divers are there already, and divers others shortly to go, we, in this present Court assembled \* \* \* think it meet that where there are a people to set down and cohabit, there will follow upon occasion, some cause of difference, as also divers misdemeanors, which will require a speedy redress \* \* \* and these being a necessity, as afore-



said, that some present government may be 'observed we, therefore, think meet, and so order, that Roger Ludlow, Esq., John Steele, William Swaine, Henry Smythe, William Phelps, William Westwood and Andrew Ward, or the greater part of them shall have full power and authority to govern Connecticut for one year next ensuing.'

"The first Court under this Commission was held April 26, 1636, and six others were held during the life of the Commission.

"After its year expired, it continued to be the organic law, by tacit consent, until the Fundamental Orders were adopted by the Court, January 14th, 1638-9; just as the Charter of Connecticut continued to be its organic law, after the Revolution, until the State Constitution of 1818 was adopted."

DATE OF WETHERSFIELD'S DISCOVERY. In Gov. Winthrop's *History of New England, from 1630 to 1649*, commonly called *Winthrop's Journal*, (*Savage's edit.*, p. 132), it is recorded under date of September 4th, 1633, that "John Oldham, and three with him,<sup>1</sup> went overland to Connecticut to trade. The Sachem used them kindly, and gave them some beaver. They brought of the hemp, which grows there in great abundance, and is much better than the English. He accounted it to be about 160 miles. He brought some black lead, whereof the Indians told him there was a whole rock. He lodged at Indian towns all the way." This was about a month prior to the sailing of the Plymouth Company's vessel to Connecticut, under Capt. William Holmes, to erect a trading house there at Windsor; and it is not improbable that that enterprise was largely influenced by Oldham's favorable report. It may also be assumed that Oldham and his companions, during this voyage, visited the place now occupied by the village (or northern and central part) of Wethersfield, and that they were the first Englishmen who set foot within and were, in fact, the discoverers of Wethersfield. The report brought back by them seems to have confirmed the belief entertained by Governor Bradford, and urged by him in an interview with Gov. Winthrop on the 12th of July, preceding, "about joining in a trade to Connecticut for beaver and hemp,"—that these articles of traffic

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<sup>1</sup> "John Oldham and three with him." It is a natural and somewhat interesting question as to *who* were the persons thus referred to by Winthrop, as Oldham's companions in the discovery of Wethersfield. Again, on p. 146 of the same book we read "Hall and the two others." So, that there appears to be a question as to the *number*, as well as the *names* of Oldham's companions. Mr. JAMES SHEPARD, of New Britain, Ct., who has given this matter a most searching examination, in connection with his monograph on John Hall, has prepared for us, a digest of the results of his reseaches, which will be found in Appendix II.

abounded along some parts of the Connecticut River. In Wethersfield, especially, Beaver Meadow and Beaver Brook (names distinctly retained to this day) attest the fact that they were then abundant there, though now extinct; while the hemp, found by Oldham there, is believed to have been the Indian hemp (*Apocynum Cannabis*) of New England, and which may be gathered even at the present time, in the low meadows and marshes of Wethersfield, and other towns in the Connecticut Valley.

Dr. Bond (*Genealogies and History of Watertown, Mass.*, p. 863) expresses the belief that "Oldham is entitled to the honor of being the pioneer, the projector of the first plantation on the Connecticut, or within that state." The "first plantation" means the same as the first *settlement*; and, while to Hartford may be assigned the priority as to date of the first trading house (Dutch), and to Windsor the date of the second one (English), both in 1633, it is to Wethersfield that we must accord the honor of the *first settlement in Connecticut*. That this was so, is evidenced by tradition, and by circumstances, the existence of which we believe to be beyond dispute. The Rev. Stephen Mix, settled minister of Wethersfield from 1694 to 1738, and born in New Haven in 1672, was of the opinion that Wethersfield was the "oldest town on the river." The General Court of the Colony in the Code of 1650, declares that "the most Auncient Towne for the River is determined by the Court to bee Wethersfield," and this declaration was reiterated in the Revision of 1672.

At the town's meeting, held in Wethersfield, Aug. 30, 1711, concerning certain lands lying within its limits, and on which Nathaniel Hooker, of Hartford, had levied an execution, a resolution was passed ("no person voting to the contrary"), that the lands in question were a part of the "stated common of the town" and that "the town have possessed and enjoyed said lands for *seventy and seven years last past*, or more, viz.: themselves and their predecessors of the Town of Wethersfield" (*Town Votes*, Vol. I, p. 293). There can be no question that among those who took part in this meeting (which according to the record was a "full town meeting") were sons of the original settlers and planters of the town, who would, therefore, be likely to know from the lips of the settlers themselves, when the first settlement was begun. If now, we reckon backward "seventy-seven years or more," from the date of this town meeting, we shall find that Wethersfield's planting was begun as early as August 30, 1634, at least; which agrees with the date given by most of the early historians. (See *Appendix I.*)

NAMES OF THE FIRST ADVENTURERS. The interesting question naturally arises at this point, *who* were the hardy, we might almost say reckless, persons who first established themselves here. The problem is difficult of solution, and, perhaps, may never be settled beyond dispute. It is conceded that they were a mere handful in numbers, probably not a dozen, all told. There is little doubt that they were all from Watertown, Mass. A church had been organized there, as early as July, 1630, under the leadership of Sir Richard Saltonstall, and the spiritual care of the Rev. George Phillips, both of whom, in company with Gov. Winthrop, had arrived there in June of that year. Our Wethersfield pioneers, unlike those of Hartford and Windsor, came without a church organization.

They had been granted no dismissal from the church at Watertown, and their severance therefrom was not recognized. Indeed, it was not until May of the following year that they had so much as the permission of the General Court of Massachusetts "to remove whither they pleased, so as they continue under this government." In the same month Andrew Ward, John Sherman, John Strickland, Robert Coe, Robert Reynolds and Jonas Weed were granted a dismissal from the Watertown church, "to form anew in a church covenant in the River of Connecticut." But, until 1639, the Connecticut River plantations were treated, practically as if they were within a territorial extension of the limits of the Massachusetts plantations whence they were derived.

Recurring, now, to the question, "*Who were the Adventurers of 1634?*" it may be safely said:

1. That Mr. JOHN OLDHAM was one of the number. So far as appears, he was never dismissed from the Watertown church, although, as Gov. Winthrop informs us, he was a member of that congregation. Both he and his fellow "adventurer," Abraham Finch, had lost their dwellings at Watertown, by fire. The latter "lost all his goods" in addition to his house, which Winthrop calls a "wigwam." Both by nature and experience, Oldham was an adventurer; and, since his arrival in America, in July, 1623, had been a man of affairs at Plymouth, Nantasket and Watertown, a trader to Virginia and a bearer of dispatches to England. We have already seen that he had visited Connecticut in 1633. His death, as will be more particularly narrated in another part of this chapter, occurred in July, 1636; his pinnace, the crew of which consisted of himself, "two English boys and two Indians of Narragansett," having been boarded off Block Island, by

Manisee Indians from that Island, under the lead of one Audiah, and Oldham brutally murdered and mutilated. On the 28th of July, Gov. Winthrop sent his warrant from Boston to the constable of Watertown (Wethersfield) directing him to "sieve and inventory his goods for payments of his debts." The Court at Wethersfield, September 11, 1636, referring to this inventory, say that the estate "seems to be somewhat uncertainly valued," and direct that it be perfected by Mr. John Plumb and Richard Gildersleeve, both of them inhabitants of that plantation. Thurston Raynor, also an inhabitant there, was, at the same Court, ordered to "continue to looke to, and pr<sup>e</sup> serve the corne of Mr. Oldham,<sup>1</sup> and to inn (or house) the same in a seasonable time, as he hath hitherto done." This plainly indicates that Mr. Oldham had raised a crop in the season previous to 1635, at least, which he could not have done without having been here at the beginning of the season. Moreover, the "corne" here referred to was grain, as we should now call it, *i. e.*, wheat or rye, as distinguished from maize, or Indian corn. Otherwise, we should have to assume that he reached Wethersfield, early in the spring of 1635, and sowed a crop of spring wheat, a hypothesis which no sensible person could entertain.

2. That ABRAHAM FINCH and his sons, ABRAHAM, DANIEL and JOHN (the two former having families), were among the settlers of 1634, is very probable. Mr. Abraham, senior, must have been well advanced in years; for, when the estate of his son Abraham (murdered by Indians in 1637) was settled in 1641, he had a grandson who succeeded to the "land and howsing" of Abraham, Jr., and in the *Wethersfield Land Records*, in 1640, certain lands are described as adjoining those of "Old Finch's." The younger Abraham left as part of his estate, a piece of "adventure land" in the Great Plain, an exceedingly fertile section lying between the village and the Great Meadow, which borders on the river. It is supposed that this tract was taken and occupied, as far as was practicable, by the "adventurers" of 1634, prior to any grant from the Indians or other sources, and held by them as "adventurers" and occupants; hence the designation "adventurers' lands."

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<sup>1</sup> This seems to have been the first case of probate proceeding in the Colony of Connecticut; and the persistent urgency of the Mass. authorities (under whose jurisdiction the new settlement then was), as evidenced by the numerous orders, warrants, etc., sent from "the Bay" to its representatives on the Connecticut river, as to gathering the property of Mr. Oldham, furnishing an inventory, etc., in order to the proper settlement of his estate so suddenly left at loose ends by his tragic death, form a most commendable and significant commentary as to the wise administration of civil law by the elder Colony.



3. Sergeant (afterwards Lieutenant) ROBERT SEELEY was also an owner of "adventure land." Although it appears that he held "as an adventurer" under William Bassum (or Bassam),<sup>1</sup> it is quite probable that the latter only held possession during Mr. Seeley's absence at Watertown, Mass., where he was finishing some work (principally surveying), which he had been employed to do there. Bond (*History of Watertown*) quite ignores him, and *Savage* fails to trace him any farther than Watertown. Lieut. Seeley, however, was a prominent man in the Colony, notably in the Pequot Campaign, in which he was second in command; and, also, later, as commandant of the fort at Saybrook. He was a near neighbor of Finch, on the east side of Broad Street, in Wethersfield, and sold his house to Matthew Mitchell, in 1640-1. He died at Elizabeth, N. J., of which town he was a first settler, in 1668.

4. NATHANIEL FOOTE, the largest holder of "adventurers land" has usually been set down as a first settler; and, by some, as *the* first settler of all, a claim which, however, can hardly be sustained as regards any one. There is no probability that Wethersfield was ever inhabited by a *solitary* white settler. Mr. Foote, with his sons, ROBERT and NATHANIEL, were of the pioneer company. They lived in one house on the east side of Broad Street, at its lower end; and, like most of the other proprietors, their richest landed possessions lay right in the rear of their respective dwellings. The elder Foote died in 1644, aged about 51 years, and was interred in the ancient burying ground in the rear of the meeting house. Of him and some of his descendants we shall have more to say hereafter.

5. Sergeant JOHN STRICKLAND, whose house lot was on the west side of Broad Street, about where Mr. S. W. Robbins resides, sold it to

<sup>1</sup>*Conn. Col. Rec.* I. 4-5.

Court held 1st Nov., 1636. Sgt.

Seely plte., vs. Inhab's of Wethersfield, defts. The Jury finde for the plaintiff that hee is to have [hold] *as an adventurer* and as a man that was in the condicion that Bassum under whom he claymed, was

1st 7 br. 1636. It is ordered by consent of Sgt. Seely plt. against the inhabitants of Wethersfield deft. yt a Juror shalbe withdrawn and yt the deft. doe vndertake to produce an order wherein they will make it appear yt it was ordered yt if the inhabits of the saide town did not remove wth their families to Connecticutt by the end of this instant moneth or els there was no prpriety due to them in the dividnt of the lands of the saide Towne & yt ye the hand or consent of the saide Willm Bassum is hereunto. And if the said order is not prduced here to the Corte after this, the Inhabt are to pay the plte. damages.

It is possible that the William *Barsham*, a landholder of Watertown, Mass. who arrived there from England in 1630, is the William Bassum here mentioned. If so, he returned to Watertown probably in 1635, and died there in 1684.

the Hon. George Wyllys of Hartford, in March, 1640. He was probably the owner of the "adventure land" entered by Matthew Mitchell in 1641. The latter held his lands by purchase, from whom it is not stated. Strickland, who like all the "adventurers," came from Watertown, Mass., assisted Mitchell, who was wealthy, in getting his cattle to Wethersfield. The latter gentleman is said to have come from Saybrook. Strickland is believed to have gone to Southampton, L. I. He was one of the six dismissed from the Watertown church in May, 1635, or, as Savage reads it, March, 1636. His son John remained in Wethersfield, and his descendants are numerous. His house was on the east side of the Green, next Hartford bounds, and was sold to Mr. Wyllys.<sup>1</sup>

6. JOHN CLARKE held "adventurers lands," which he sold in 1638, to John Robbins, "Gentleman," who entered them for record in 1641. Both Dr. Bond and Mr. Savage mention a John Clarke of Watertown, Mass., and suppose him to be the "Mr." Clarke appointed a constable in 1632; but the latter finally concludes that William, and not John, is the "Mr." referred to. Dr. Bond had believed that John was the Dr. John, a physician, who went to Rhode Island, but finally abandoned this hypothesis, discovering that that gentlemen first arrived in America in 1637. The probability is that John Clarke of Wethersfield is the constable of 1632, and that he came hither from Watertown, Mass., in 1634, and was thus lost sight of by Bond and Savage; more especially, as his name has not appeared in any index of the *Wethersfield Records*. Clarke removed to Saybrook, prior to 1640, thence to Milford, whence he returned to Saybrook, from which place he was often a deputy (or magistrate) to the General Court.

7. ANDREW WARD, one of the foremost men of the Colony, seems to have left Watertown, Mass., immediately after being admitted there as a freeman, May, 1634,<sup>2</sup> and come to Wethersfield; or else some other person, acting in his interest, preceded him to Wethersfield (he following in May, 1635, when he was dismissed from the Watertown church) and took possession for him, of twenty acres of the "adventurers land." Prior to Ward's removal to Ripowams (Stamford), in 1640, he sold the lands to Robert Rose, who already held the same amount in his own right. He lived a few rods north of the Congregational Church; possibly he had Oldham's "adventure lands."

<sup>1</sup> Both Dr. Bond and Savage seem to have been ignorant of the fact of Strickland's removal to Pyquaug.

<sup>2</sup> There are indications that some were so admitted after their removal to Connecticut.

8. ROBERT ROSE, who left Ipswich, England, in April, 1634, probably came directly to Wethersfield. He was a fellow passenger with several Watertown families, and it is not clearly ascertained, says Bond, "that this family settled in Watertown." His sons ROBERT and JOHN were with him. He was one of the largest original holders of "adventurers lands." His homestead was on the east side of Broad Street, between Lieut. Seeley's and John Clarke's. He became one of the first settlers of Totoket (Branford) in 1644. His son Robert remained in Wethersfield, where as in other parts of the United States, his descendants have been numerous.

9. We venture to suggest but one more name, that of LEONARD CHESTER, "Gentleman," as one of the pioneers. With his name the list of "adventurers, is possibly complete; although it is quite probable that others, whose names will never be known, accompanied them hither, as subordinates, servants or laborers. But, the non-existence of any Wethersfield records, prior to 1640, must limit our further knowledge of the first settlers of the town. Mr. Chester pitched his tent on the east side of Broad Street (The Green, "from time immemorial"), a few rods south of Abraham Finch's. He was well born, ranking as an Esquire, and though but twenty-four years of age, was one of the largest land owners in the new plantation. Dr. Bond, who would fain keep the Watertown settlers there as long as possible, says that Mr. Chester left Watertown previous to the making out of the earliest "list of possessions \* \* \* \* with the Colony that first planted Pyquag" (Wethersfield). He thinks that he left his wife behind until after the birth of their first child, John, born August 3rd, 1635, and he adds "we have not found this birth upon the records" of Watertown. There is, however, such a record upon the Wethersfield records of births and deaths, which are earlier than the land records, and it is possible that Mrs. Chester joined her husband the next season, and that John Chester was the *first child* born of white parents in Wethersfield. A more extended notice of Mr. Chester will be found in connection with our Chester Genealogy. He died in 1648, and the rude stone table that covers his remains, is the oldest now remaining in sight in the ancient burying ground of Wethersfield.

10. WILLIAM SWAYNE, "Gentleman," also held "adventure lands, but probably came to Wethersfield not earlier than 1636, and then took the land of JOHN OLDHAM, deceased. He removed to Branford in 1644.

These ten men, known on the Wethersfield records as "adventurers," i. e., occupants of land not deriving their titles from the town—were,

either in person or by representation, the SETTLERS of 1634, and were all from Watertown, Mass.

ADDITIONAL SETTLERS PRIOR TO 1641. The foregoing named persons not only came from Watertown, Mass., but had been proprietors of land in that plantation, then only in the fourth year of its existence. They were, practically, only removing from one wilderness to another, and can not be said to have been wholly unaccustomed to the hardships incident to frontier life. In the two ensuing years, the number of colonists emigrating from Watertown to Wethersfield was considerably increased. Some of these new comers were "proprietors," others were not. A list of these, so far as is known, has never been given; and, unquestionably, in such a list, it would be difficult to avoid including the names of some who came from other places. The difficulty arises from the fact that the Watertown (Mass.) records do not contain the names of all the settlers there, not even of all the males of full age, and the Wethersfield records are even more faulty in this respect. Indeed, the records of the votes of the latter town, as well as of its church, are entirely lost, as to all transactions prior to 1648, and its land records only begin at 1640. Such of the names of the first settlers of Wethersfield as are given in Bond's *History of Watertown, Mass.*, are herewith presented—a part of these came hither in 1635, others in the year following:

Abbot, Robert.	Palmer, Henry.
Benjamin, Caleb.	Palmer, William.
Bates, Robert.	Pierce, John (?).
Betts, Roger.	Pierce, Edward (?).
Clarke, Samuel.	Raynor, Thurston.
Coe, Robert.	Reynolds, John,
Denton, Rev. Richard.	Reynolds, Robert.
Dix, Leonard.	Seeley, (Lieut.), Robert.
Goodriche (Gutterig), John	Sherman, Edmond.
Goodriche, William.	Sherman, Samuel,
Hall, John.	Sherman, Rev. John,
Hubbard, George.	Swayne, William, "Gent."
Hubbard, Samuel (son of George)	Smith, Samuel.
Jones, Lewis (?).	Thomson, John.
Livermore, John.	Weede, Jonas.
Mason, Edward.	Whitmore, Thomas.



The following are the names of *additional settlers*, nearly all from places other than Watertown; some directly from England; most of them came between 1636 and 1640, none later than 1645.

Those thus marked \* are not found in Judge Adams' list, as published in the *Memorial History of Hartford County*, but appear in his manuscript:

Adams, Thomas.	Evans (Evince), John,
Belden (Belding), Richard.	"Gentleman."
Bell, Francis.	Fletcher, John.
Boardman (Boreman), Samuel,	Ferris, Jeffrey.
perhaps 1641.	Gardner, Samuel.
Boosy (Bosey), James.	Gibbs, John.
Bradfield (Broadfield), Leslie,	Gibbs, Gregory.
(1642 ?).	Graves, Isaac.
Brundish, John.	Graves, John.
Burrows (Burroughs), Robert,	Graves, Nathaniel.
1642.	Gildersleeve, Richard.
Butler, William.*	Hale, Samuel.
Carrington, John.	Hollister, (Lieut.) John, 1644.
Cattel (Catlin), John.	Hoyt, Walter.
Chappel, George.	Hurlburt, Thomas.
Chappel, George, 2nd.	Ireland, Samuel.
Chaplin, Clement, Ruling Elder.	Jagger (Gager), Jeremy.
Churchill, Josiah.	Jessup (Jesiope), John.
Cole, James, 2nd.	Jordan, —————.
Coleman, Thomas.	Jennings, Joshua.
Comstock, William.	Kilbourn, Thomas.
Cross, William, 1644 (?).	Kilbourn, (Sgt.), John,
Curtis, John.	son of Thomas.
Curtis, Thomas.	Latimer, John, 1646(?).
Deming, John,	Law, Richard.
Dickinson, Nathaniel.	Lilly, John.
Dickinson, John,	Longdon, Andrew, 1643.
son of Nathaniel.	Miller, John.
Doty (Dote), Daniel.	Mills (Miles), Richard.
Edwards, John.	Mitchell, Matthew.
Edwards, Thomas, son of John.	Morecock, Nicholas.
Elsen, Abraham.	Morehouse, Thomas.
Elsen, John,	Northend, John.
brother of Abraham.	Norton, Francis.

Nott, (Sgt.) John.	Taylor, William.
Parke, Robert, "Mr."	Tinker, Capt. John.
Parke, Thomas.	Tracy (Trace), Lieut. Thos.
Parke, Richard, 1643.*	Topping (Toppin, Tappan),——
Prudden, (Rev.) Peter.	Treat, Richard.
Prichard (Prigiotte), Roger, 1642(?).	Treat, (Lieut.) Richard, Jr.
Rawlins (Rawlings, Rollins), Jasper.	Ufford (Uffort), Thos.
Richells, Sigismund.	Vere, Edward.
Robbins, John, "Gentleman."	Ward, (not Andrew), husband of Joyce.
Rogers, William.	Ward, John, son of Andrew (?).
Root, John.	Waddams (Wadham), John.
Saddler, John.	Waterhouse, Jacob.
Scott, Edward.	Westell (Wastoll), John.
Seaman, John.	Wescott (Wastcoat), Richard.
Sension (Sention), Matthias, probably <i>St. John</i> .	Wells, (Ens.) Hugh.
Sherwood, Thomas.	Whitway, Thomas.
Smith, (Rev.) Henry.	Wicks (Weeks), Thomas.
Smith, Samuel. }	Williams, Matthew.
Smith, Philip. }	Wolcott, George, perhaps not until 1649.
Standish, Thomas.	Wood, Edmond.
Stoddard, John.	Wood, Jonas, son of Edmond.
Taintor, Charles.	Wood, Jonas, 2nd.
Talcott, Capt. Samuel.	Wright, Thomas.
	Yates, Francis.

This list, intended to include only those who were heads of families, is as nearly complete as existing data enables us to make it.

THE PLACE OF FIRST SETTLEMENT—PYQUAUG. Our next inquiry concerns the *place* of the first settlement here in Wethersfield. It was undoubtedly within that small section of the present town known to the first settlers by its Indian name of *Pyquaug* (*Pyquough*; *Paquiaug*; in Indian deed to Wethersfield, 1671, *Puckquiog*) or, as Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull says, it should be spelled *Pa-qui-auke*. According to the same authority, the meaning of the word is "cleared land"—"open country"—which seems probable when we consider the natural mellowness and fertility of the soil of this part of Wethersfield, and the fact that it was unexcelled as a planting ground for the "Indian corne" cultivated by the natives. The particular tract which gave the name to the larger

section, was probably known in 1640, as the "Adventurer's Lands," also as "The Great Plain" and "The Little Plain" (adjoining Great Plain on the south); these names being retained unto the present day. In its largest extent we should say that Pyquaug (the most common orthography of the word) was bounded northerly, partly by *Suckiaug* or *Sicaogg* (Hartford), or but a little separated therefrom; and partly by a bend in the Connecticut River, now called "The Cove;" easterly by the Connecticut River, separating it from Hoccanum, Naubuc and the Island, subsequently known as "Wright's Island;" southerly by lands now in Rocky Hill, separating it from Mattabeseck (Middletown); westerly, by the ridge of trap rock, which is an extension southerly of the Stone Pit Ridge, of Hartford, and along on the summit of which the road on Wolcott Hill extends, and it embraced a part of Hoccanum, which lay on both sides of the river. Those familiar with the town will recognize this description as inclusive of the area covered by the present village, with a considerable margin around it. Exactly what part of this was first built upon can not now be determined, unless we assume that dwelling houses entered for record in 1640 (the earliest record extant), occupied, in general, the sites of the first houses built in the settlement. In that case, we may say with certainty that the oldest settled part of Wethersfield is that traversed by Broad Street, both sides, and High (or Main Street from the Congregational meeting house northerly) both sides, until it came to the river (now "The Cove"), and the east end of Fort, now Prison Street, both sides.

This arrangement, practically, made two communities, or neighborhoods, in close proximity, but sufficiently distinct to form what might be designated the High Street, and the Broad Street quarters of the settlement. There is no good reason for supposing (as does Mr. Hezekiah Belden, in his manuscripts), that the first settlers spent their first season here on "Poke Hill," which was not only uninviting in appearance, but, in fact, was not in Wethersfield, but in Hartford bounds.<sup>1</sup>

INDIAN OWNERS OF THIS TERRITORY. *Pyquaug* and, indeed, all the land from *Sicaogg*, or Hartford, on the north, to some distance below

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<sup>1</sup> *Poke Hill*. Most of the high ground to which this name was given, was in Hartford township, it being a little North and East of the present Folly Bridge. In 1699, Wethersfield chose Jonathan Deming, a surveyor, (that is, a highway inspector) for "Pok Hill." It is possible, if not probable, that this name is but another form of "*pauqui*" i. e. "bare or cleared." It appears in several names: as in *Pyquaug*, *Sahquioke*, *Poquonnock*, etc., as indicated by Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull's *Indian Names in Connecticut*.

the Mattabeseck (now in Middletown) on the south, is said to have been under the dominion of one *Sowheag* (or Soheage), sometimes called Sequin, a chief of the Wongunks.<sup>1</sup> DeForest (*History Indians of Connecticut*) makes *Soheag* the name and *Sequin* the title of this chief; and considers that the latter is equivalent to that of "sachem." When first met by the whites, he was living at Pyquaug, as he probably did when he sold the land to the planters; but, in 1636, or soon after his quarrel with them he removed to Mattabeseck, where (according to Dr. Field and others), he had a fort on the high ground in the west part of the present City of Middletown, at a place still known as Indian Fort. Some of his Middletown lands he gave to Gov. Haynes, and his son Montowese (or Mantowese) sold a tract of land ten miles long and thirteen broad lying northerly of Quinnipiac (New Haven) to Theophilus Eaton and John Davenport, in 1638. It is noticeable that in an agreement (*New Haven Col. Rec. I, 5*) made and signed by him at this time, he is called the son of "a sachem living at Mattabezeck" and "a nephew to Sequin." This would seem to indicate that *Soheag* and *Sequin* were not the same persons. In 1662, Sepunnemo and other chiefs sold the remaining land in Middletown to Samuel Wyllys and others, reserving 300 acres for the heirs of *Soheag*, on the east side of the river. A similar reservation for *Sawean* (or Sawseunk) had been made on the west side of the river, where Newfield in Middletown now is. There are, also, other indications to be hereafter mentioned, that *Soheag* and *Sequin* were *brothers*. (See *chapter on Indian Purchases*.)

From these circumstances it may be inferred that *Sowheag* was a wealthy and powerful sachem, and somewhat advanced in years, when he bargained with the first planters of Pyquaug. Whether he was related to Sequassen (Sewassen or Sunckquassen), sachem of Hartford, does not appear. He has sometimes been erroneously confounded with the latter. When he died is not known. His son Tarramuggas succeeded to his Mattabeseck and Pyquaug titles. From such sources as are at present accessible, we may infer that *Sowheag*, as early as 1638, was residing at Mattabessett—perhaps in the section at or near what is now Beckley Quarter, in the great curve of the stream of that name. That *Sowheag*, later, at least, lived in Newfield, in Middletown; that he died

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<sup>1</sup> This tribe possessed a domain whose bounds have never been precisely defined. The Wongum region included a considerable part of the present Chatham and South Glastonbury, and took its name from the great bend in the Connecticut River at Middletown. But members of the tribe inhabited the Mattabessett region, which included the Southwestern part of Wethersfield and there seems to have been a sub-tribe, or clan, known as the Mattabesetts.



there before 1664<sup>1</sup>; that his successor was Tarramuggas, who died before 1705, on the reservation in Middletown; that most of the Wongunks withdrew to the reservation at Wongum (now Chatham), of 300 acres set apart to the heirs of Sowheag in 1673; and that the remnant became extinct soon after 1774, the number of survivors being then less than forty, are facts that may be pretty confidently accepted.

Turramuggas was succeeded by his son *Peetoosh*, who was sachem in 1706, and then living at Wongum. When he died is not known, or whether he left lineal descendants. His successor and the last of the dynasty was *Cushag*, who died before 1765, at which time his widow *Tike* was still living, but aged and infirm.

In January, 1659, there was living at Wethersfield a sachem, "kinsman of Uncas," the sachem of the Mohegans. Such he called himself, or is called, in a deed of his interest in Nequiauke (in East Haddam) to Richard Lord. The record shows that Joshuah, Seanake's daughter, was a witness to the deed of Turramuggas and other people, in December, 1671. It is possible that *Seanah* and *Seanan* are variations of the same name. Our belief is that *Seanah* lived at Nayaug, now South Glastonbury. When Glastonbury became a town in 1693, it is probable that that section contained nearly all the Indians remaining in Wethersfield. Indeed, there had probably been an influx of Eastern Indians into that region, after the Narragansett campaign of 1676. In February, 1676, Mr. John Hollister, son of Lieut. John, then deceased, invited the Wongum Indians to assist him in building a "fort" at Nayaug, where he was then living; and it is supposed that they, being afraid of the Narragansetts, aided in the construction of a defensive work on Red Hill,<sup>2</sup> and this became the seat of those thereafter called the Red Hill Indians.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Although Sowheag's successor was Tarramaggas, he left other children, among whom was Sepanamaw ("squaw"): and, in the 1671 deed to Wethersfield, Speunno, (Sepunnemo?) Nabohee, Weeshumpsic and Waphanke are called his heirs. A sister of his was the mother of Mantowese, and it was in her right that the latter, in 1638, conveyed a part of the Quinnipiac region to the New Haven settlers. The mark of Tarramuggas to this deed was a hatchet: that of Mantowese was a drawn bow and arrow. This latter was, also, in one case, a mark used by Tarramuggas.

<sup>2</sup> RED HILL.—This hill of sand, of a reddish color, in South Glastonbury, bears this name in a deed of Hugh Wells to Daniel Rose, Dec. 3rd, 1663. It was on the Mitchell tract of 900 acres, at Nayaug.

<sup>3</sup> Barber's *Hist. Collections of Connecticut*, edition p. 559, gives the following account of these Indians, furnished to Mr. Barber by Gideon Welles, Esq., later known as Secretary of the U. S. Navy.

Tradition tells of a brave tribe of aborigines which occupied a position a little South of the centre of the town, known by the name of the Red Hill Indians. They

That Indians either dwelt at, or frequented Pyquaug, is very evident from their implements of war, the chase, domestic use, etc., which have been found on the plot which the settlers selected for their burying ground. Their favorite haunts seem to have been in the south part of the township, near Rocky Hill line, mostly in the tract included within the forks of Beaver and Goffe's Brooks; also, on the lower end of the Great Plain, near Beaver Brook; also, further up the stream, on Goffe's Brook, where it is known as Mill Brook. In these localities, beaver and other game, as well as fish, abounded and the soil was mellow, fertile and easily cultivated. Many relics, Indian weapons, etc., of various patterns and kinds of stone, even hatchets and tomahawks of greenstone trap, have been found there down to the present day.

INDIAN NAMES OF LOCALITIES IN WETHERSFIELD. We may here properly consider the original *Indian nomenclature* of this town, of which enough is still preserved (especially on the east side of the river) to serve as mementoes of the Red Men. These, for convenience, we have arranged alphabetically. Those marked thus \* are localities included in the part added to Wethersfield in 1673, by the extension of its line three miles to the eastward.

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were a branch of the Pequots, and between them and the Mohawks there were unsparing and relentless hostilities. The Red Hills had a fort on a very precipitous hill, which was strongly fortified on the east, but towards the river on the west, the besieged relied principally on large logs and stones which they rolled down **up** on their enemies if they attempted to ascend the eminence. Spies and friendly Indians informed the Red Hills of the advance of their enemies, who immediately gathered their women and children within the fort; and, on several occasions, made a gallant defence, repelling the Mohawks with great loss. At length the Mohawks whose numbers greatly exceeded those of the Red Hills, and who had usually made their most desperate effort by trying to ascend the hill, resorted to stratagem.

Word came to the Red Hills that the Mohawks were coming, and they gathered their tribe within their fort. But the Mohawks did not make their appearance, and after waiting for some time in vain, the Red Hills despatched a small party up the river, for the purpose of reconnoitering. Near the upper part of East Windsor or Enfield, the party struck upon a trail, which they followed in a southeasterly direction, until they came to the head-waters of Roaring Brook, at Minnahaug mountain. Here all traces ceased. No trail, nor track, nor scent could be found. Subsequent events showed that, at this point, the Mohawks had entered the stream, and (that they might not be traced) had waded down the entire distance to near its mouth, where were the fort and village of the Red Hills. The scheme was successful, the hapless Red Hills were surprised and experienced more than savage vengeance. The Mohawks spared not one of the race. This horrid butchery is said to have taken place about the period when the whites first emigrated to Connecticut. Although they had no part in this tragedy, the bloody legend was remembered and told, and the froward child was often subdued by the terrifying exclamation "the Mohawks are coming."

*Amannantocksuck*.—"The look-out place at the brook"—Roaring Brook (?).

*Amobesett*.—Sometimes contracted to Besett Plains, was in the southern and central part of the present Rocky Hill township.

*Hoccanum*.—(On both sides of the river)—"a hook."

\**Kongscutt*.—(corrupted to Skunkscut), a mountain range east of the centre of Glastonbury; "at the hill," or, as Dr. Trumbull puts it, "the high place." Chapin says (*Glast. Cent.* 7): "In all early records, called Kongscut, no doubt derived from *Honcksit*, signifying *goose country*. (Hong, *goose*, Ausit, or sit, *place of country*, R. W. 86, 87); where the high precipitous ledges afforded a secure retreat for wild geese in summer, while the clear and limpid waters of *Diamond Pond*, lying just beyond, furnished the necessary means for their recreation and comfort."

*Mabautauantucksuck*.—"Outlet" (of a pond ?).

*Manhannock*.—(In the Connecticut River, known as Wright's Island)—"the Island place." (See Appendix III.)

*Mattabesett*.—(Massabeset, Mattabeseck) "Great Brook"—partly in Wethersfield.

*Mawnantuck*.—"The look-out place."

*Meshomasic*.—(Sometimes *Somersic*) according to Dr. Chapin's interpretation, "a place of great rattlesnakes," a mountain partly in Eastbury, partly in Chatham.

\**Minnechaugh*.—(Minnechug)—"Huckleberry Hill," a high elevation in the northeast part of Eastbury parish.

*Naubuck*.—(Nabocke)—according to Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull, "flooded, or overflowed lands." The name applies to a tract bounded north by Hoccanum and partly by the (then) Hartford bounds; east by the upland or foot hills (Nipsic Hills and Wassuc or Assawassen) of the present Glastonbury; south by Roaring Brook and Nayaug; west by the Connecticut River. Probably the Indians who, with the permission of the whites, formed a settlement there shortly before 1651, gave it this name. Dr. Trumbull suggests its original form as *Hawabuc*. It has been generally known in later days as "Naubuc Farms."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This name first appears of record, October 23d, 1667, when Samuel Gardner, then of Hadley, Mass., but "sometime of Wethersfield" or "Hoccanum signed a certificate to this effect, that, in 1651 or '52, he had sold to Will Gibbons, of Hartford, all his lands at "Naubuck" formerly belonging to Nathaniel Foote (of Wethersfield). In a deed of Tho. Edwards to Samuel Boardman, Jan. 4, 1671, the name

*Nayaug*.—(Sometimes, Noyake in *Wethersfield Land Rec.*), was mostly a fertile meadow, bounded north by Roaring Brook (Sturgeon River on Dr. Chapin's Indian map of Glastonbury); east by Mes-homasic; south by Wongum or Wongunk (mostly within Middletown bounds); westerly by the river. The name, according to Dr. Trumbull, indicates "the point" or "corner" referring to the angle formed by the junction of Roaring Brook with the Connecticut River.

\**Nipsick*.—(Nipsuc) "the pool place," though not included within the most ancient bounds of Wethersfield (but in the extension thereof of 1673) was, according to Dr. Chapin (*Glast. Centennial*, p. 18) an elevated plateau, near the centre of the present Glastonbury, within which was a pond, now a pool, called Red Spring, from which it took and still retains its name.

*Pahegansic*.—(Pegansic) is the name of what is known in the records as "Bare Hill," near the Chatham line. Dr. Chapin to whom we are indebted for this name, says that the land conveyed by Thomas Edwards to his son-in-law, John Goodrich, both of Wethersfield, was the same that had been conveyed to the said Edwards by Tarramuggas in 1673, and that it includes a mountain called *Mabantanantucksuck*, "an outlet," which is in the neighborhood of *Pegansic*, and, perhaps, within the present limits of Marlborough.

*Pauqui*.—Meaning "bare" or "cleared" may, perhaps, be the original name of "Poke Hill," which dates back to the settlement of the town, as applying to the locality at the Folly Bridge.

*Pootapaug*.—"Pewter Pot Brook," the author may be pardoned for suggesting, is a corruption of the Indian name *Pautipaug*, (Pauta paug, Potapaug, or Pettipaug), meaning, therefore, according to Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull, a "boggy meadow," or a "bay," or "cove" that has a narrow inlet from a river; in this case the first signification is probably the most applicable.

\**Pontoosuc*.—(Powntuck-suc) the "falls on the brook," sometimes

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is given as "Nabocke." In 1673-4, a highway six rods was laid out, in a North and South course, through its whole length, and fenced, and this corresponded very nearly with the present main street of Glastonbury. It traversed the tier of lots laid out in 1639, which lots were each three miles in length. In consideration of land taken for this highway, the General Court extended Wethersfield bounds three miles further eastward. In March, 1679, the town chose Samuel Hale, Jr., and Caleb Benjamin, fence viewers for this section. Chapin (*Glast. Cent. 18*) says this name was not used by Inds. until after the whites came here and is inclined to consider that "the term *East side* [of the Great River] being so often employed by the English, the Indians may have joined his *Nop*, *East*, and *uc locality, place, side*, and made the word *NOPUC*, or *NAUBUC*, signifying *the east side*.



called Pine Hill; thought by Dr. Chapin to be a corruption of the word Amanantucksuck, Anontoosuck, etc.

*Pyquaug*.—See page —.

\**Seaukum*.—In the southeast corner of Glastonbury, now in the town of Marlborough.

\**Sechenayaug*.—Name of a tract in the extreme eastern part of Glastonbury.

\**Wassuc*.—(Assawassuc, Hassawassuc, Ashowaset, Washiack), “between the forks” or “fork of a brook”—a considerable section lying in the south and central part of Eastbury parish.

*Wongum*.—(Wongunk) At the “bend”—partly in Wethersfield.

Of the foregoing localities, *Hoccanum* (partly in Wethersfield to-day), *Naubuc*, *Mannhanock*, *Nayaug*, and part of *Wongum* are east of the river as it now runs; but were within the original bounds of Wethersfield, and down to the date of Glastonbury’s incorporation. This reduces the catalogue of aboriginal titles for Wethersfield, as now constituted, to *Pyquaug* and that part of *Hoccanum* in the small area still remaining to the town, east of the river. It may be mentioned, however, that part of *Matabesett* (or Mattabeseck) usually placed wholly in Middletown, was within Wethersfield bounds, until taken therefrom by the incorporation of Berlin, in 1787. The stream from which the name is taken, means “The Great Brook Place.” Cedar Mountain (now shared between Wethersfield and Newington) once bore an Indian name, since forgotten.

Having now introduced the reader to the discoverer, Mr. John Oldham, and to those who first followed in his footsteps, the “adventurers,” as well as to the earliest immigrants who came afterwards; and having described how and from whom they purchased the lands which were to constitute their new home; and by what names, both of their own naming and of Indian origin, the various localities of the territory were called, we proceed to chronicle, as best we can, at this distance of time, their progress in subduing the wilderness to the purposes of civilized life, and the gradual development of their civil, military and ecclesiastical organization.

The absence of any town records (except those relating to lands) prior to 1646-7, limits our sources of information to the few items (and the inferences to be drawn from them) to be gathered from the Colony Records (themselves all too scant for our own desire) and to such incidental references as can be found in *Bradford* or *Winthrop*, or the few other contemporary writers of the period.

For the first two years or so, after the settlement at Pyquaug, the control of those who thus issued forth into the unknown regions upon the Connecticut, was assumed and assured by the action of the General Court of Massachusetts, which early in March, 1635-6, granted a commission to "several persons to govern the people at Connecticut for the space of a year then next ensuing." The commission thus named consisted of Mr. Roger Ludlow, and William Phelps, of Windsor; John Steele, William Westwood and Andrew Ward of Hartford; William Swaine and Henry Smith of Wethersfield; and William Pyncheon of Springfield.

The three river towns were thus clearly under the civil jurisdiction of Massachusetts; they bore the same names respectively, as those Massachusetts towns from which they sprang, viz.: Dorchester, Newtown and Watertown; and the latter (the present Wethersfield) was evidently, in an ecclesiastical sense, but a part of the church at Watertown, Mass. At least one session of the General Court (or Commission for Connecticut) that of September, 1636, was held at Watertown on the Connecticut River, at which administration was granted upon the estate of the murdered Oldham; being the first instance of probate in the Connecticut Colony; and at a previous session (April) of the same year, Daniel Finch was appointed a constable for Watertown, the place of his residence; which appointment (inasmuch as the office in those days was of a quasi-military character) may be said to mark the beginnings both of Wethersfield's civil and military organization.

It is evident, from all contemporary accounts, that the new settlement upon the Connecticut gained rapidly in population, between 1634-5 and 1637, by fresh arrivals from Massachusetts, and in some instances directly from England.

By this time (exact date unknown) the territory comprising this "plantation"<sup>1</sup> had come by legitimate purchase from its Indian owners, into the possession of a company of individuals, known as "The Thirty-four Men," or "Proprietors," who had entered into an "agreement," or partnership (certainly by 1639), "with the reste of the Towne and with the Church," by virtue of which both town and church were (in the language of the present day) "let in" to occupy such portion of the land as might be necessary for their respective wants; and each seems to have had and exercised the right of granting land to members

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<sup>1</sup> "A *plantation*" was a settlement outside of the recognized territorial limits of any township of the Colony, that it was proposed ultimately to raise to the dignity and power of a township and invest with the franchise of towns in general. Most of the older townships passed through a preliminary period of "plantation" exist-

of the community.<sup>1</sup> For this privilege, the government and protection of the town, and the instruction and the spiritual guidance of the church seem to have been held to be a reasonable and sufficient compensation; for, in the minds and the practical plans of our forefathers, church and state were indivisible. *Andrews*, contrasting the Connecticut theory of democratic government with that of Massachusetts, says of the former: "Theoretically, church and state were separate; practically, they were so interwoven that separation would have meant the severance of soul and body."<sup>2</sup>

THE CIVIL DISTINCTIONS, OR CLASSES WHICH FORMED THE BODY POLITIC.—The population of Wethersfield, at this time, like that of its sister towns, Windsor and Hartford, was composed of four classes, viz.:

ence. Thus the "plantations" of Cupheag, Rippowams, and Totoket were begun by Wethersfield men: and they after became the townships of Stratford, Stamford and Branford respectively.

<sup>1</sup> *List of persons to whom Land was granted by Church and Town.*

This last is made up from some loose memoranda found among Judge Adams' papers, and may, perhaps, be accepted as correct as far as it goes. It is not quite certain whether it had reached the point of full completeness in his own mind.

*Granted Land by the Church:*

Leonard Dix.  
 Enoch Buck.  
 Henry Palmer.  
 John Wadhams.  
 Sam. Boardman, (30 acres at Rocky Hill)  
 Michael Griswold.  
 Thomas Hanset.  
 Will. Taylor.  
 Rich. Smith.  
 Hugh Welles.  
 Thomas Curtis.  
 John Coltman.  
 Leonard Chester.  
 John Elsen.  
 Will. Smith.  
 Richard Belden.  
 Sam. Hale.  
 Joseph Smith.  
 John Northend.  
 John Riley.  
 Sam. Welles.  
 Joseph Deming.  
 Rich. Treat, a farm at Noyake.

*Granted Land by the Town:*

Benjamin Crane.  
 Richard Smith, weaver, from Pequot, 1656.  
 Robert Francis.  
 Emmanuel Buck.  
 John Dickinson.  
 John Riley.  
 John Hollister.  
 John Russell, son of Rev. John.  
 Rev. Henry Smith.  
 Richard Montague.  
 Thos. Tapping.  
 Thos. Williams, 1661, at Rocky Hill.  
 Thos. Hurlburt, land for a shop—1661-2.  
 Jona. Deming, 1662, in the street.  
 John Belding, 1662.  
 Thos. Wickham, 1662.  
 Joseph Walkley, 1662.  
 Will. Taylor, 1663, J.  
 Joseph Edwards, 1665.  
 Andrew Pyncheon, 1667.  
 Edward Benton, 1667.  
 Alex. Keney.  
 Joseph Smith, at Rocky Hill, 1667.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Charles M. Andrews, in his masterly analysis of the organization of *The River Towns of Connecticut, A study of Wethersfield, Hartford and Windsor*, one of the John Hopkins Studies in Historical and Political Science—1889; an essay; from which we shall have frequent occasion to quote. In this study, Mr. Andrews seems to have been largely indebted to the *Wethersfield Land Records*.

Inhabitants, householders and proprietors and freemen. An *inhabitant* was one who, by virtue of his acknowledged reputable life and conversation, had been admitted as such by the majority of the voters of the town to which he sought admission.<sup>1</sup> A *householder* was one (male or female) who was acknowledged as the head of a family, or who owned a sufficient amount of real estate. A *proprietor* was one of an oligarchy, a small circle of men in the community, who had originally purchased the lands within the settlements' territory, and who therefore "had a dual character as proprietors and inhabitants; recognized in the phrase frequent in the records, proprietors-inhabitants." <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> INHABITANTS.—By the Constitution or "Fundamental Orders" of the Colony, of 1639, this term is applied to those who have been "admitted inhabitants, by the major part of the town in which they live." They were required to take the oath of fidelity. The General Court, in 1657, explained the term still further: by the 7th Fundamental are meant only householders "that are one and twenty years of age, or that have bore office, or have £20 estate. It is apparent, therefore, that when the town admitted "an inhabitants" as it often did, by vote in town-meeting, it passed upon the fitness of the applicant to establish himself in the township, and become the head of a family there. He was thenceforth to become a qualified member of the body politic, and his status was very nearly the same as that of a "freeman" in our own time. He was not a "Freeman" as then understood, but might be one on application to the General Court when his status would be advanced to that, or very nearly the same, of the "Elector" of the present day.

Sometimes a person would intrude within the township, and settle there, without having been regularly admitted into the community. In such cases it was customary for the town to "warn him out by vote in public meeting." It will be seen from the foregoing, that the number of legal inhabitants of a town was much smaller than the number of residents within it: and that the number of freemen was still less: in fact proportionally less than today.—S. W. A.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p. 90. "A PROPRIETOR was not, of necessity, however, a resident; though in the majority of cases he was so. In origin they were a body of men who collectively purchased lands of the natives through a grant of the General Court, or otherwise. The right of each could be exchanged, or left by will. Generally, on removal, such rights were sold to new comers, who thus became proprietors, or some of the inhabitants by such purchase added to his own rights. Often they were retained and looked upon as stock in a corporation. This naturally led to the existence of proprietors holding rights in one town and living in another. It was a claim of this kind which gave rise to a vexatious suit, lasting for three years, of an inhabitant of Hartford, for 100 acres of land in Wethersfield, he basing his claim on his right in the division of 1693, as received from his father-in-law. The neglected proprietor won his case. The proprietors, as such, had no political rights. It was only in the capacity of 'admitted inhabitants' that they voted in town meeting."

The term applies to those who had a right to share in the "common and undivided lands" within the township. These were the wild lands not yet allotted to individuals in severalty.

In these lands, the Town, as a corporation, had no right or interest. They belonged to those who purchased the town tract from the Indians, and to their heirs and assigns. As nearly all the tax payers, or voters, were entitled, by inheritance or purchase, to represent the original purchasers of the township—it was customary,



In Wethersfield, unlike Hartford and Windsor, the town and the proprietors were practically one, and all general divisions were made in town meeting; the earliest division being between the thirty-four men, who claimed, as the number of inhabitants increased, their original right. The *freeman* was one who (above the age of 16) had taken the oath of fidelity, on presentation of a certificate of good behavior from the town.<sup>3</sup>

But no one could become a resident of the town until he was admitted as an inhabitant. The floating body of "transients" were, as they now are, an unavoidable element in the community, but their rights were

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for many years, for the allotments or individual grants to be made in town meetings; that is, the town was allowed to vote away the lands belonging to the "Proprietors" of the common lands. But this ceased to be the rule after about 1712. The last great allotment or division of the common lands, made in 1754, was pursuant to a vote of the Proprietors, passed Feb. 20th, 1752. The vote will be found recorded in Vol. II, of Town Votes, on the page next preceding that numbered page one. The division was among the "Proprietors," and not among the land-holders or taxpayers of the town in general. Many of the doings of Proprietor's meetings will be found recorded among the town votes.—S. W. A.

<sup>3</sup> FREEMAN.—By the Fundamental Articles of 1639, a "Freeman" was one who having been admitted an "Inhabitant" by the major part of the town wherein he lived, and having taken the Oath of Fidelity, might vote in the election of Deputies or Representatives, as they are now called. In 1656 it was enacted that they should be of "peaceable and honest conversation" and subject to approval by the General Court. It will thus be seen that the term corresponded very nearly to that of "elector" of the present time. (See Inhabitant.) In 1672 the candidate was required to have real estate to the value of £20; that was reduced to £10 in 1675.

Deputies were required to be Freemen, but it does not appear that town officers were. The first person made free at Wethersfield was Mr. Robert Parke, in April, 1640: after this the records do not disclose the names of freemen, except in occasional instances. There is however a list of those who were returned as such in Oct., 1669, which we give in full: Alexander Keney, William Morris, Thomas Hurlburt, Michael Griswold, Will. Taylor, Thomas Wright, Jr., Isaac Boardman, Samuel Wright, Richard Smith, Sen., Jona. Smith, Ens. Will. Goodrich, John Nott, Emmanuel Buck, Robert Francis, John Goodrich, Thomas Standish, Thomas Wright, Sen., John Saddler, Sam. Hale, Sen., Sam. Hale, Jr., Mr. Samuel Welles, Josiah Churchill, Thos. Wickham, Thos. Kirkham, John Curtis, Samuel Butler, Henry Buck, Thomas Curtis, John Deming, Sen., Daniel Rose, Mr. Samuel Talcott, John Deming, Jr., Josiah Gilbert, Joseph Wright, Mr. Samuel Martin, John Coultman, Richard Beckly, Mr. John Chester, Eleazer Kimberly, Nath. Graves, John Wadhams, John Belden, Josiah Willard, John Kilbourn, Sam. Boardman, Sen., John Riley, Sen., Mr. Richard Treat, Sen., James Treat, Thos. Edwards, Richard Smith, Jr., Joseph Smith, Philip Goffe, Benjamin Crane, Hugh Welles, Jonathan Deming, James Wright and Richard Treat, Jr., James Treat, Jr.

It is obvious that many of the most prominent citizens did not take the trouble to be made freeman. The above list contains 56 names: but it is probable that there were nearly 100, including the above, who *might* have qualified at this time.—S. W. A.

meagre in the extreme. The town extended to them but a scant and grudging hospitality at the best; and, as early as 1640, Hartford (and probably Windsor and Wethersfield, also) passed special regulations which must effectually have estopped their being harbored within the town's limits.

The purchase of land referred to, as made by the proprietors, was from Sowheage, sometimes called Sequin, the sachem of the Wongunk tribe; and it comprised a tract in extent six miles north and south, extending five miles west and three miles east of the Connecticut River, with the islands, to which was subsequently added five miles to the eastward. No deed of this purchase seems to have been given, and it is quite likely that the transaction was not fully settled for some time; the only official record which we have of it being the Hubbard certificate of 1665, in which the original surveyor testifies to the limits of the land thus conveyed, to the whites; as well as, to his own personal knowledge of the fact that "the Wethersfield men gave so much unto Sowheage as was to his satisfaction for all their plantations lying on both sides the Great River." By his contract with the settlers, Sowheag stipulated that he might "sitt down by them, and be protected;" but difficulties soon arose between them, which caused his removal to Mattabesick, in high dudgeon, and which laid him open (probably unjustly) to suspicion of being an abettor of the Wethersfield massacre of 1637, of which we give a detailed account elsewhere. What these difficulties were doth not appear, but may it not be that his dissatisfaction arose from some unsettled question as to that portion of the land beyond (east of) the river; for, as late as April 11th, 1639, we find the General Court requesting its committee to "put Mr. (William) Goodwin in mind of finishing the treaty with Sequin concerning the land beyond the river; and the Governor, Mr. Deputy, Mr. Willis, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. [ ], Mr. Steele and Mr. Spencer, were entreated to attend [the said] services" from which it would appear that the bounds were not even then definitely settled. Nor does it appear what arrangement, if any, Mr. Goodwin effected. But the substance of it may be found in the treaty, or deed of confirmation, made by the heirs of Sowheag, dated December 8th, 1671 (recorded in *Wethersfield Land Rec. II*, p. 203), given to Mr. Samuel Wyllys, Mr. Henry Wolcott, Mr. James Richards, Capt. Samuel Welles, Mr. Samuel Talcott, Mr. John Chester and Mr. James Treat, all large holders of land in Wethersfield "for the use of all others, the rest of the several proprietors, of the said land within the limits of the township of Wethersfield." This important

document recites the fact of the former deed from Sowheag "sachem, or chief governor of the Indians, the natives and former inhabitants of Puckuiag, now called Wethersfield." It states the bounds to have been "all that part of the country that is within the limits of the township of Wethersfield; that is to say, six miles in length by the Great River, on the west side of the Great River, from the tree marked N. F., the boundary tree between Wethersfield and Hartford, north, to the tree N. W., soe marked, the boundary tree, between Wethersfield and Middletown, south; the Great River, east, and the whole length to run six large miles into the wilderness west, in breadth, where Wethersfield and Farmingtowne bounds mett; and six miles in length by the river-side on the east side of the said Connecticut River from Pewter Pott Brooke, north to the bounds between Wethersfield and Middletown south; the said Great River west." It will be seen that this description is fuller than that reported to the General Court in February, 1636-7 (*Conn. Col. Rec. I*, p. 7), which mentions but one marked tree—that with N. F. (Nathaniel Foote's initials) thereon. The letters W. M., must have been subsequently used and are believed to have been the initials of William Morris, a surveyor and one of the earliest grantees in Rocky Hill.

Roger Welles, Esq. (in his *Annals of Newington*, p. 10), calls attention to the fact that while the Indian grant to Wethersfield conveyed a tract extending "six large miles west from the river into the wilderness," the General Court fixed the east bounds of Farmington separating it from Wethersfield, at a distance of *five* miles from the river. This discrepancy or confusion of boundaries seems to be correctly explained by him, by referring to the winding course of the river from which measurements were made; the stream varying at least a mile in its position easterly or westerly from a straight north and south course. (See Part A, *Appendix II*).

This deed is signed by Turramuggus (a son of Sowheag); Sepanama's squaw, daughter to Sowheag; Speunno; Nobawhee (Nabowhee in deed); Weesumshic (Weesumsic in deed), and Waphanke, all males, excepting one. The deed is witnessed by John Allen, Josiah Willard, and Samuel Butler, the two latter of Wethersfield, and by Jowshuah (by mark); Seanah's daughter (by mark); "William Squa" (by mark); Nabawhee's squaw, and Suggoneke, the latter a male; both by mark. The words "his" or "her" marks are used, the marks themselves not being copied in the record. It will be noticed here that Montowese, who in 1638 (in a deed of land at Quinnipiac, to Eaton and Davenport, is called a son of "a sachem living at Mattabeseck," and

L A I D O U T I N 1 6 3 9

VILLAGE  
—OF—  
WETHERSFIELD  
CONN.  
ADJ 1634 TO 1644  
BEING THE HOUSES OF ORIGINAL SETTLERS

1885.

Борис и Анна с детьми и бабушкой. 1908 г.



DUE EAST THREE MILES —→

MANHANNOCK  
WRIGHTS ISLAND  
(SINCE DISAPPEARED)

THE GREAT RIVER 1640

GREAT MEADOW

BEAVER MEADOW

WET SWAMP

THE LITTLE PLAIN

THE GREAT PLAIN

PART OF GREAT WEST FIELD

GREAT WEST FIELD  
THE LOTS IN WHICH WERE  $1\frac{1}{2}$  MILES LONG.

BEAVER BROOK <sup>now</sup> TANDOG.

SOUTH FIELD

HARTFORD.

PENNY-WISE.

ROAD 12





"a nephew to Sequin," did not join in this deed. Possibly, he was dead; but, as the sachem living at that time has always been supposed to have been Sowheag, and at the same time to have been identical with Sequin, the writer had supposed that Montowese and Turramuggus (sometimes spelled Cattaramuggus), were brothers, sons of Sowheag; and, he still believes that Sowheag and Sequin were one and the same individual; but the fact that after, in 1638, the General Court decided that Sequin had a right to "sit down" at Wethersfield, he had returned within its limits, that seems to indicate that he was not *the* sachem at Mattabesek referred to, and consequently that Montowese and Tarramuggus were not brothers. But, there is always uncertainty in Indian annals.

In the foregoing deed a new consideration, or rather gratuity is stated, *i. e.*, "twelve yards of trading cloth." The deed recites that the consideration of the first deed was a "sume of money to him (Sowheag) in hand paid, in current pay, to his full satisfaction and consent."

Before taking leave of the Indians, with whom we have become acquainted, during our discussion of these land purchases, etc., we may add the following facts concerning some of them. Mantowese, who in a deed of lands to Messrs. Eaton and Davenport, in 1638, is styled "the son of a sachem living at Mattabesett," and "nephew to Sequin," is referred to in a confirmatory deed of the same lands, May 24, 1681, as brother of "Sunck Squa," wife of Nassamboccome, who, with Wetantson and Manaposh, "young Sunck Squa" and others, had signed the deed; and they all refer to Mantowese as "our predecessor Sachem."

In 1672, Tarramuggus was witness to a deed confirmatory of a "gift" by Sowheag, the Great Sachem of Mattabesett, to Gov. Haynes of Hartford, of the tract now comprising Middletown. The grantors, Sepunnano, Joan, *alias* Weekpisseck, Mamachez (Machize in deed), Wusumpsha, Wamphauen, or Wamphanck, Spunno, Sackamas and Tacumhuit, who all sign with a mark, claim to be proprietors of the lands sold. The witnesses are Nessehegan, Wannose, Tarramuggus, Puccacun and Sachama's mother. Tarramuggas' mark was a rude picture of a hatchet, but his mark as affixed to a deed, in the same year, concerning land now occupied by the Town of Durham, represented an arrow drawn full on the bow; which seems to have been his usual mark.

These deeds, recorded in the *Conn. State Archives* (Vol. I, Mss.), in the Secretary of State's office at Hartford, show that Tarramuggus possessed a very extensive domain on both sides of the Great River.

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<sup>1</sup> *Conn. Col. Archives*, Lands II., 110.

In 1686, Nesahegan, Seaket and other Indians, signed a deed of lands at Massacoe (Simsbury) to Maj. John Talcott, Capt. Benjamin Newberry, and others. It was to compensate for property burned by Indians, "predecessors" of the grantors. It is worthy of notice that Nesaheeg and Soeckutt are the names of two of the grantors of "the Five Mile Extension" to Wethersfield, in 1673 (to be referred to hereafter), and Nesehegan witnessed the deed of Tarramuggus and others of the Middletown tract, before mentioned. Whether these names, apparently the same, belonged to the same individuals, is not certain, though probable.<sup>1</sup>

January 18, 1658-9, Seanan, sachem, living at Wethersfield, and kinsman of Uncas, the sachem of the Mohicans, deeded to Richard Lord of Hartford, his interest in Nequiauke, up a small river, east side of Connecticut, a little below "Thirty Mile Island." But Seanan, probably, lived on the east side of the river.<sup>2</sup>

December 6th, 1706, Peethoosoh, "son of Tarramuggus, deceased, now inhabiting in the place called Wongunck (east of the river) in the township of Middletown," conveyed to Samuel Smith of Glastonbury (son of Richard) his interest in 150 acres of land north of and adjoining a pond near the road from Glastonbury to Colchester. The same land had, in 1673, been granted to Mr. Samuel Martin, of Wethersfield, by the General Court, and by him sold to Richard Smith. Pethoosoh is the only grandchild of Sowheag we have been able to trace and we suppose neither his grave or that of his great ancestor can now be found.

In 1765, some two hundred acres of land, being the remnant of the three hundred reserved for Sowheag's heirs, at Wongunck (now Chatham), were directed, by the General Court, to be sold for the benefit of the survivors of the Indian tribe, which once owned this fertile valley. The application for its sale was signed by the selectmen and by Sam. Ashpo, an Indian. It alleged that most of the Indians, about forty in all, were "civilized and Christianized," and were dispersed, some among the Mohegans; others at Farmington, Hartford and New Hartford. An old squaw and three of her children, and Mary, old and blind, the widow of Cushoy "late sachem" of the tribe, were all that remained upon the reservation, which was desired for building purposes, the meeting house being in the middle of it. John Chester, Elisha Williams, James Wadsworth, Jr., and William Welles, Esq.,

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<sup>1</sup> *Conn. Col. Rec.*, I., p. 187.

<sup>2</sup> *Conn. Col. Rec.*, II., p. 105-6.

were appointed a committee to sell it. In 1774, the last sale of land was directed to reimburse Middletown and Chatham for expenses in caring for Tike, *alias* Mary Cushoy, (or Cushaw), relict of Cushoy, Indian sachem. It appears, therefore, that Cushoy was the last survivor of the Sowheag dynasty, but whether he was a lineal descendant does not appear.<sup>1</sup>

INDIAN GRANTS OF LAND TO INDIVIDUALS. The "*Beckley Quarter*"—At the October session of the General Court, 1668, Sergeant Richard Beckley, then lately removed from New Haven, where he had lived since 1638-9, was granted three hundred acres of land "lyeing by Mattabesick River, halfe a mile wide of both sides of the river, and to run up from New Haven path soe farr till it doth contayne three hundred acres." Segts. Hugh Welles and John Nott, both of Wethersfield, were directed to lay it out,<sup>2</sup> and the grant was confirmed by a town vote, February 22, 1670-1, with an addition of ten acres "nigh his house." This later grant was intended as an equivalent for Beckley's share in the "Mile-in-breadth" tract next to Farmington line.<sup>3</sup> When Beckley recorded this tract,<sup>4</sup> he described it as obtained, "by purchase of Terramuggus, Indian, with the consent of the Court and town," whence it appears that previous to the confirmation deed of Wethersfield, December 25, 1671, it was doubtful, in the minds of some, whether the town had a good title to the common lands. This tract, which became the nucleus of "Beckleyville" or "Beckley's Quarter," was in that part of Mattabesett lying within Wethersfield bounds, until the incorporation of Berlin, in 1787. Beckley, as the occupant of this tract, was probably the earliest settler of the present township of Newington. There is a tradition, not, however, credited by the author, that he married a daughter of Tarramuggus. He was a married man as early as 1638, and it is probable that he brought "Goodwife" (or as the New Haven records call her "Sister") Beckley to Wethersfield with him. If he took the dusky maiden to wife, she was probably a third wife, as his second wife was a daughter of John Deming, a prominent pioneer of Wethersfield.

<sup>1</sup> *Conn. State Archives*, Vol. X. See, also, Deforest's *Hist. of the Indians of Connecticut*.

<sup>2</sup> *Conn. Col.*, I., 100.

<sup>3</sup> Wethersfield Town Votes, I., 3.

<sup>4</sup> Wethersfield Land Rec., I., 100.



*The Boardman, Edward's and Willard's Grants.* In a deed dated January 28, 1672-3, Tarramuggus, alone, executed a deed for four hundred acres of land to Samuel Boreman and Thomas Edwards, both of Wethersfield (the latter residing east of the river), in consideration of "that respect that I bear for them." The land, which then was outside of the then bounds of Wethersfield, was composed of "upland and swamp," and was "near or in Ashowaset or Paquanauge, or Mawnantuck." A deed of ratification, dated May 1, 1673, laying out two hundred acres to Samuel Boardman's heirs, signed by Tarramuggus, describes the land as "three miles from the river eastward" and refers to the deed of January 23, 1672-3, thus: "The lands are now (May, 1673) laid out on the west side of Saheganuck Hill." These lands were within the limits of Wethersfield as afterward established by the "Five Mile Extension" eastward. Dr. Chapin seems to have overlooked one of these deeds (found in *Conn. Col. Rec.*, Vol. I, unpublished part, pp. 420, 425). This tract of four hundred acres was the subject of another deed of confirmation, signed February 10, 1672-3, by Terremugus (a new spelling), Kesetho, Terremuggus' "Sachem squa," Nabowhewith; Terteramuggus' daughter, Taccumhuit; Marrowgun; Kecummos, for "his squa," and Wishumpsha. Here the land is said to be laid out by the side of Roaring Brook, near Mr. [Josiah] Willard's land, called by the Indians "Annannanantocksock," measured "from the brook W. S. W. half a mile and eight rods." An additional clause was added April, 1672 (at the time the land was surveyed by Hugh Wells), which is signed by Catteramuggus (same as Tarramuggus) with the drawn-bow mark.<sup>1</sup>

It may be added here that Thomas Edwards was the son of John of Wethersfield, and that he was *one of the very earliest settlers* of "Hockanum, in Wethersfield," as the *Wethersfield Town Records* designate him, where by the direction of the General Court, in 1663, he supervised the building of a bridge. Samuel Boardman (then written

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<sup>1</sup> In the copy of this deed of Feb. 10, 1672-3, given to Wethersfield, by John Allyn, Secretary, "the names of these signers are thus spelled *Turramuggus*, *Keseso* (Sachem Squa), *Wesumpshi*, *Nobbwit*, *Monogin*, *Keecomush*, and in April, same year, *Caturmuggus* (*Turramuggus*) signed individually, an explanatory writing to the effect that the 400 acres to Thomas Edwards is laid out in the South side "Roreing Brooke," near Mr. Willards land, called by the Indians "Amanantucksuck." "There I pitched my first corner stone by the brooke, and digged two holes: and from there measured west southwest 42 chaines, which is half a mile and eight rodde, and souseeest on each side nine score and 14 rods."—*Wethersfield Land Rec.*, II., 252.

Willard was granted 50 acres, for services in the Pequot war, in Oct., 1671, at Wassuc, or Ashowassuck, probably the land referred to in Tarramuggus's deed.

Boreman or Borman) the ancestor of those of the name in Wethersfield, never lived east of the Connecticut River. Josiah Willard, first of the name in Wethersfield, was one of its earliest schoolmasters. We have not been able to verify the bounds of his lands east of the river.

*Grant to James Wright.* Some time prior to January 10, 1674-5, Tarramuggus, "a Wethersfield Indian," had granted to James Wright, of Wethersfield, but residing east of the river, a tract of 640 acres, and "the pond called Poocatoobock and the two little Islands in said pond." This tract having been taken on an execution in favor of Samuel Marshall, of Windsor, against Tarramuggus, the latter in order to prevent Wright from being defrauded "of his lands after having disbursed so much in the purchase thereof," made January 13, 1674-5, another grant of 640 acres in two parcels, one of 40 acres "on some part of the east side pond," being a neck of land on the west side of it; the other parcel (600) to begin at a white oak tree, beside said pond, running west six score rods, thence "south  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles & 40 rods, and east twelve score rods to the brook that runs out of said pond, south called Niuppa Quashnege; which pond and brook make the east side of this parcel of land."<sup>1</sup> This last grant is of lands originally in Middletown, now in Chatham limits; and mention of it is here made because both grantor and grantee were of Wethersfield, whilst the tract itself is close to her ancient border.

It is to be remembered that, in all these land purchases, our forefathers seem to have acted in perfect honesty and good faith with the Indians. More than that, it is evident that they subsequently looked upon the former owners of the soil, as, in a sense, their wards and needing their protection; thus, in January, 1657-8, we find a town vote directing that the Indian lands should be looked after and the "rent required of those [white men, probably], who enjoy it" (*i. e.*, who were cultivating it); and again, 13 May, 1663, that the Indians in South Meadow be disposed of "to the ancient natives who have lived among us." At the same time while protecting the interests of

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<sup>1</sup> In 1666-7, Robert Boltwood, then of Hadley, Mass., but previously of Wethersfield, conveyed to Sam. Wyllys, a "certain pond, about five miles East of Conn. River, near the way leading to Norwick, or New London." The land had previously been granted to Boltwood (so says Wyllys' son Hezekiah, in a petition to the General Court, 1732), by the General Court, and in Boltwood's deed he had conveyed a right to land adjacent to said pond, which was given him by one Recham, an Indian. This is all we have been able to find as to the locality of the Indian grant. Wyllys land adjoining Boltwood's was 100 acres, about six miles from Thomas Edward's on the way to New London.—*Conn. State Archives, Towns & Lands, VI.*

their Ind. neighbors, they kept them strictly "in line," as we find, April 15, 1678." Indians of the fort in this town (*Hollister's Fort?*) were convicted of drunkenness."

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[At this point in Judge Adams' manuscripts, he introduces the subject of the *Wethersfield Patent* of 1685, and of *Town Bounds and Lines*, which are treated by him with most elaborate detail. While these and the papers which he prepared as to the various allotments, purchases, divisions and descriptions of lands in Wethersfield are of great value in a history like this, I have felt that their introduction here would considerably embarrass the logical and proper sequence of our historical narrative, and have, therefore, arranged the most of such material as *Appendices*, where they could be preserved for reference by such readers as may have a special interest in these subjects.—H. R. S.]

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THE SURVEY OF THE TOWN. The land thus purchased, must next be officially surveyed ere the rudimentary plantation could be raised to the dignity of a township. This was, of course, a matter of which the General Court (or Commission) the highest authority then existing upon the Connecticut River, must take cognizance. So, at its session, held at Dorchester (Windsor), June 7th, 1636, it was duly enacted that Samuel Wakeman of Dorchester (Windsor), and George Hubbard of Watertown (as the settlers of Pyquaug had named their place in honor of the Massachusetts town from which they had come), should survey "the breadth of the plantation of Watertown (Wethersfield) toward the mouth of the river, to the end that it may be confirmed."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> At Court held at Dorchester, 7 June, 1636, it is ordered yt Samuel Wakeman & George Hubbard shall survey the breadth of the plantation of Dorchester \* \* \* \* and the same Samuel Wake[man] shall doe the like for Watertown in their breadth toward [the] mouth of the River and have the like satisfaction. And this done without fail before the next Corte, upon penniel [tie of] 40tie shillings of each head yt shall faile therein.—*Conn. Col. Rec.* I. p. 2.

Feb. 21, 1636.—Whereas, it was ordered yt Samuel Wakeman, George Hubbard, & Ancient Stoughton were to consider of the boundes of Dorchester [Windsor] towards the Falls [at Enfield] & of Watertowne [Weth.], towards the mouth of the river. The saide Samuel Wakeman & [George] Hubbard thinkes meet yt the [then follows concerning the Dorchester bounds etc.] Samuel Wakeman, and Ancient Stoughton doe thinke meete that the boundes of Wethersfield shalbe extended towards the River's mouth in the same side it stands in to a Tree sixe miles down

This order seems not to have contemplated the establishing of any more than its northerly and southerly bounds. On the 21st of the following February, Wakeman and "Ancient" Stoughton, of Windsor, reported to the Court recommending that the breadth of the town, northerly and southerly, be six miles, beginning at a tree marked N. F. (Nathaniel Foote's initials) in the north line, and the length, easterly and westerly, be so far fixed as to carry the east line three miles to the eastward of the mouth of Pewter Pot Brook, a stream then flowing into the Connecticut from the northeast; but which now runs into Keney's Cove occupying the old bed of the river in Glastonbury. The bounds between Hartford and Wethersfield were fixed "atte a tree marked N. F. and to which the pale (fence) of the said Hartford is fixed to goe into the country due east and west and on the other side of the Great River, from Pewter Pott Brook at the lower side of Hoccanno due east into the country." Nothing is said about the western bounds of the township, but it is probable that the deed from Sowheag (no copy of which has been preserved) stated them so clearly, that no further action seemed urgent to the Court, at the time this order was made.<sup>1</sup> For, many years after, June 16, 1665, George Hubbard, the surveyor here mentioned, and then living at Guilford, made an affidavit to the effect, that "upon his certaine knowledge, by the advice of the Court, Wethersfield men gave so much unto Sowheag as was to his satisfaction, for all their plantations lyeing on both sides the Great River with the islands, viz.: six miles in breadth on both sides and six miles deep from the river westward,<sup>1</sup> and three miles deep from the river eastward." (*Conn. Col. Rec. I*, p. 6.) All this tends to show, that in 1636, or earlier, a grant had been made to the Wethersfield men, by Sowheag, of a tract of land of fifty-four square miles of area, eighteen of which were east of the

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from the bounds between them and Hartford [marked with] N. F. & to run [on an East] & West line [& over the] greate River, the saide Wethersfield to begin at the mouth of Pewter Pott Brooke, and there to run due East into the Countrey three miles & Downward Sixe miles in breadth, weh is ordered accordingly.

The boundes between Wethersfield & Hartford are agreed on the side wherein they stand to be at a Tree marked N. F. & to weh the Pale of the saide Hartford is fixed, toe go into the Countrey due East, & on the other side of the greate River from Pewter Pott Brooke at the lower side of Hoccanno, due east into the country, weh is now ordered accordingly.—*Conn. Col. Rec.*, I., 7-8.

<sup>1</sup> The Gen. Court Dec. 1, 1645, in fixing the Eastern bounds of Tunxis (Farming-ton) provided that they should adjoin the Western bounds of the River plantations which are to be five miles on this side of the Great River. This was inconsistent with the earlier understanding that the Western bounds should be six miles west of the River, but all parties concerned thereafter treated the earlier as the correct and natural bounds.



river. This territory was so divided by the river, as to leave a tract six miles square west of the river, and a rectangular tract, ranging northerly and southerly, measuring three miles wide and six miles long on the east side of the river.

THE NAMING OF THE TOWN.<sup>1</sup> At the same session of the Court at which the surveyors made their report (February 21, 1636, see page 51) the three plantations were re-named, that of "Dorchester" being changed to WINDSOR; that of "Newtown" to HARTFORD, and that of "Watertown" to WYTHERSFIELD; the name being subsequently written Weathersfield and more modernly as now spelled.

Why the original settlement here at Pyquag was called Watertown, is obvious. Its settlers simply perpetuated the name of the Massachusetts town from whence they came,<sup>2</sup> and of which, by ties of association, they felt themselves to be still a part. But a larger future was now opening to them, they were, so to speak, beginning to "stand upon their own feet;" they needed, then, a new and distinctive name. But *why* the name Wethersfield should have been selected has never been satisfactorily explained. The word "Wethersfield" itself is said to signify a sheep fold, it being apparently assumed that it is compounded of "wether" and field, or "fold." In this sense its appropriateness may certainly be questioned; since, at that time, there, probably, was not a sheep in the colony. Nor does any authority for its use, even by inference, seem to be found in any of the old English spellings of the word such as Weddarsfield, Weresfield, Werchesfield, Westerfield, Witeresfield, Wydersfield, Wydrysfylde, Walperfield, Whelperfield, etc., some of which do not mean "sheep field," but may be very differently defined. Nor is it from any known or strongly marked resemblance, in its physical appearance, to the Wethersfield of Old England.<sup>3</sup> Prof. Franklin B. Dexter,<sup>3</sup> of Yale University, in a paper on "Town Names in Connecticut" (*Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*),

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<sup>1</sup> The suggestions herewith given on this subject are taken from an article by Judge Adams, published in the Hartford Post of February 11th, 1889, and evidently present his latest, and more mature conclusions, on this somewhat vexed question. —H. R. S.

<sup>2</sup> Which had itself, as Savage conjectures (Winthrop's *Hist. New England*, p. 43, note) taken its name from the hamlet of Watertown, in the parish of Ludington, on the Isle of Axeholme, a place with which Sir Richard Saltonstall, the chief man of the Watertown, Mass. colony, had been in some way acquainted or connected.

<sup>3</sup> Just as the names of Norwich and Stamford and of other American towns, are similarly accounted for by their respective historians.

suggests that the name Wethersfield owes its origin to the fact that John Talcott "one of the most prominent among the proprietors of the new plantation," came from the neighborhood of Wethersfield, England, but, Mr. Talcott, who did not arrive in Connecticut until 1636, was not one of the proprietors of the new plantation; and, inasmuch as he came from Braintree, which was in the neighborhood of several other parishes besides Wethersfield, Prof. Dexter's supposition seems hardly to be substantiated. Nor do we find that John Oldham, Andrew Ward, Nathaniel Foote or any of the "Adventurers" or pioneers of 1634-5, were natives, or, in any wise, connected with Wethersfield, Old England, so far as the places of their nativities have come to our knowledge. In the article on Wethersfield, prepared by the writer for the *Memorial History of Hartford County*, he ventured the suggestion (though with some hesitation) that John Clarke, one of the original settlers of Wethersfield, may have been the person of the same name, or his son, who inherited Wethersfield Manor, in 1629, and that he may have given the name to his transatlantic home. Or, that the wife of Mr. Leonard Chester (if, as Mr. Bond, the Watertown, Mass., historian, supposes) she was Mary Neville, was probably the descendant of Sir Hugh de Neville, "Lord of Wethersfield," and that she, the mother of the first white child in the Connecticut Wethersfield, may have been the occasion of the new plantation having received this name, in the year next succeeding that child's birth. But Mr. Chester himself came from Leicestershire, and a preponderance of evidence seems to establish the fact that Mrs. Chester was, earlier, the widow Mary Wade and a daughter of Nicholas Sharpe.

And though Mr. Chester's mother was a sister of Rev. Thomas Hooker, yet this does not aid us in the solution of the problem, since she was from Leicestershire. There has been a supposition advanced (upon what basis we know not) that the Rev. Richard Rogers, who died in 1618, after having been for forty-three years the pastor at Wethersfield, England,<sup>1</sup> was the cause of the selection of the name of that parish, for this new plantation on the Connecticut. But, the present writer has not adopted this suggestion, since there seems to have been no motive for connecting Mr. Rogers with any of the first settlers of this Wethersfield, who would have been apt to have been concerned in the naming of the town. Mr. Rogers was known as the

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<sup>1</sup> MR. RICHARD ROGERS, preacher of God's word at Wethersfield, in Essex, had 40s, willed to him by Robert White, yeoman of Messing, 1617. *New Eng. Geneal. Register*, LV. Jan., 1901, pp. 22-23.

author of *The Seven Treatises*, a work which passed through many editions, and was read far and wide, especially by the non-conforming clergymen of his day. He was, in the language of a writer who is quoted approvingly by Cotton Mather, "another Enoch in his age," and a Puritan of the strictest and most energetic type. His son, Rev. Ezekiel Rogers, born in Wethersfield, England, became pastor of the parish of Rowley, England, and in 1638, was one of the founders and the first minister of Rowley, Mass. A nephew, Rev. Nathaniel Rogers (son of Rev. John of Dedham, England), was settled at Ipswich, in 1636, and it was in his honor that Dedham, Mass., was named.

Now, in that way, if at all, was the memory of the Rev. Richard Rogers to become the important factor in the naming of the new township in Connecticut. The writer believes it *was* in this way. Among the six members of the Watertown (Mass.) church who, in May, 1635, were dismissed "with intent to form anew in a church covenant in the River of Connecticut," was the Rev. John Sherman, then in the twenty-third year of his age and a native of Dedham, in the County Essex, England. With him came his father, Edmund Sherman and a younger brother Samuel. Edmund and Rev. John, his son, took up adjoining homesteads on the east side of High Street, a little south of the present Prison Lane. Rev. John was probably the first clergyman who ever preached in Wethersfield until 1637, in which year he was a member (at its May session) of the Committee, or lower house of the General Court. He had been in England, a member of Rev. John Roger's church; and, if Mather is to be credited, it was upon the advice of Mr. Rogers, his instructor, that he went away from Dedham, under the character of a "college Puritan." There was no occasion for naming the new township Dedham; which, when the question came up in the Court, would probably have been Mr. Sherman's first choice, since that name had already been given to a Massachusetts town. But, as Mr. Sherman equally respected and venerated the name of the more widely known Richard Rogers, brother of the said John Rogers, we may reasonably suppose that he may have suggested the name of Richard Rogers' parish and procured its adoption for the name of the new township, of which then, and until 1640, he was a citizen. In that year he sold his home lot to Thomas Bunce; in May, was freed from watching, and removed to Milford from whence he served as deputy to the General Court of the New Haven Colony, in 1643. In 1644-5, he joined with some of his old Wethersfield neighbors in the settlement of Branford; and in 1647, returned to Watertown, Mass., where he succeeded Rev. Mr. Phillips and where he died in 1685, in his 72d year. My conclusion is,

that as Dedham, Mass., was named in honor of Rev. John Rogers, and Rowley, Mass., after Rev. Richard Rogers, that Rev. John Sherman was the person through whose agency was secured the name of Wethersfield.

It has been commonly supposed that these Rogers of Essex Co., England, were descendants of John Rogers, the martyr of 1655; but the learned antiquarian, Col. Joseph L. Chester, has proven that this could not have been the case. It is also well to note that a John Rogers was one of the founders of Milford, Conn., and that that town's historian makes him also to have descended from the martyr, which also is not probable.

[THE MURDER OF MR. JOHN OLDHAM BY THE INDIANS, IN 1637, was the tragic ending of a roving and adventurous life, which towards its close had become somewhat intimately connected with Wethersfield's history. He had led them to this Vale of Content in this Promised Land, to which their hopes had turned; and, in the intervals of his trading voyages, he had farmed the lands which he held by right as one of the "adventurers." *Winthrop's Journal (History New England, Vol. I, pp. 225-6)* gives us the fullest details of this sad event, under date of ——— 20, 1636, as follows:

"John Gallup, with one man more, and two little boys, coming from Connecticut in a bark of twenty tons, intending to put in at Long Island, to trade, and being at the mouth of the harbor, were forced by a sudden change of the wind, to bear up for Block Island or Fisher's Island, lying before Narragansett, where they espied a small pinnace, which drawing near unto, they found to be Mr. Oldham's (an old planter and a member of Watertown congregation), who had been long out a trading, having with him only two English boys and two Indians of Narragansett. So, they hailed him, but had no answer, and the deck was full of Indians (fourteen in all) and a canoe was gone from her full of Indians and goods. Whereupon, they suspected that they had killed John Oldham, and the rather because the Indians let slip and set up sail, being two miles from shore, and the wind and the tide being off the shore of the island, whereby they drove towards the main at Narragansett. Whereupon, they went ahead of them, and having but two pieces and two pistols, and nothing but duck shot, they bear up near the Indians (who stood ready armed with guns, pikes and swords) and let fly among them, and so galled them as they all gate under hatches. Then they stood off again, and returning with a good gale they stemmed her upon the quarter and almost overset her, which so frightened the



Indians, as six of them leaped overboard and were drowned. Yet, they durst not board her, but stood off again, and fitted their anchor, so as, stemming her the second time, they bored her bow through with their anchor, and so sticking fast to her, they made divers shots through her (being but inch board) and so raked her fore and aft, as they must needs hurt or kill some of the Indians; but seeing none of them come forth, they gate loose from her and stood off again. Then four or five more of the Indians leaped into the sea and were likewise drowned. So, there being now but four or five left in her they boarded her, whereupon one Indian came up and yielded; him they bound and put into hold. Then another yielded whom they bound. But John Gallup, being well acquainted with their skill to untie themselves if two of them be left together, and having no place to keep them asunder, he threw him into (the) sea; and looking about, they found John Oldham under an old seine, stark naked, his head cleft to the brains, and his hand and legs cut, as if they had been cutting them off,<sup>1</sup> and yet warm. So they put him into the sea, but could not get to the other two Indians, who were in a little room underneath, with their swords. So they took the goods which were left, and the sails, etc., and towed the boat away, but with the night coming on and the wind rising they were forced to turn her off, and the wind carried her to the Narragansett shore."

A most gallant deed was this, in truth, which stands to the undying credit of Capt. John Gallup and his shipmates. Three of the seven Indians, who were drowned in this encounter, were sachems; and nearly a hundred fathoms of Wampum and other of Oldham's goods, together with the two boys who were with him, and who (according to *Bradford's Hist. New Eng. Commonwealth Edition*, p. 232) were "his kinsmen" and "were saved but had some hurts," were returned by Miantonomoh to the English authorities.<sup>2</sup>

Such was the end of Mr. John Oldham, who, for some years had been a rather conspicuous figure in both the Mass. and Plymouth Colonies; and, says Bradford "this his death was one ground of the Pequot warre which followed."

Oldham must have had same social *status*, for he is almost uniformly mentioned by the early chroniclers as "Mr." a term not lightly used in those days. He came to Plymouth in 1623, in the ship *Ann*. His active

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<sup>1</sup> As was undoubtedly the case, for the reader of early New England history will remember that it was exactly in this barbarous manner that Capt. John Tilly of Windsor, in October, 1616, was mutilated while yet alive.

<sup>2</sup> Winthrop, Vol. I., p. 228.

connivance, in 1624, with Rev. John Lyford, in plotting, both here, and by correspondence with a faction in England, against the interests of the Plymouth Company; his defiance of and drawing a knife on Capt. Standish when called upon duty of "watch, and ward:" his outrageous conduct towards the Governor himself, "ramping more like a ferocious beast than a man" and his cursing (as a modern writer would have put it, "his 'langwidge' hit wer orful") fairly amazed the pious and dignified gentlemen of Plymouth and finally caused his arrest and expulsion from the Colony. His family, however were permitted to remain over the winter, or until he could make comfortable provision for their removal. He went for awhile, to Nantasket, where he found some congenial spirits who had also given the Colony trouble and where he, himself, seems to have given the Colony further trouble by interfering with its fishing-plant at Cape Ann. In the spring of 1625, although he had been forbidden so to do, he came back to Plymouth and again misbehaved, whereupon he was jailed until he had cooled down, and in March of that year was again expelled, this time being attended "by a gard of musketeers which he was to pass throw, and *every one was ordered to give him a thump on the brich, with the but-end of his musket and then was conveyed to the water-side where a boat was ready to carry him away. Then they bid him go and mend his manners.*"

After declining a proposition from the Dorchester people to trade for them with the Indians (for evidently his capability as a seaman and trader was recognized) he sailed, in 1626, for Virginia, but says Bradford, "it so pleased God yt ye bark that carried him, and may others passengers, was in that danger as they despaired of life, so as many of them, as they fell to prayer, so also did they begin to examine their consciences, and confess such sins as did most burden them. And Mr. Oldham did make a free and large confession of ye wrongs and hurt he had done to ye people and church here (that is, Plymouth) in many particulars, that as he had sought their ruine, so God had now meet with him and might destroy him, yea, he feared they all fared the worse for his sake, he prayed God to forgive him and made vowes that, if ye Lord spared his life, he would become otherwise and ye like. This I had from some of good credit, yet living in ye Bay, and were themselves partners in the same degree on the shoulds of Cape Codd, and heard it from his own mouth. It pleased God to spare their lives, though they lost their viage: and in time afterwards Oldham caried himself fairly towards them, and acknowledged ye hand of God to be with them, and seemed to have an honorable respect of them and so farre made his peace with them as he, in after time, had libertie to go an come and converse

with them, at his pleasure." Indeed, so far had he gotten back in the good graces of "the saints he had formerly troubled" that when the next year, Morton of Merry Mount, the anarchist of that period, was sent to England to be dealt with, Oldham was entrusted with his custody.

"After this" says Bradford, " he went to Virginia, and had there a great sickness, but recovered and came back againe to his familie in ye Bay, and there lived till some store of people came over." As a resident now of the Massachusetts Bay, he comes again into view, in 1629, in London, (where according to the records of the Mass. Coloney, then kept in that city) he was making himself obnoxious to the Governor and Council of that Company, by his persistent pressing upon their notice of plans and claims which they evidently considered to be more for his benefit than for their own. These propositions were apparently based upon a patent, which Oldham had obtained, or in which he was somehow interested, from Sir Gorges, and his proposal to have this patent examined by the Company, leads to an entry on their records, May 11th, 1629 that " it is agreed not to have any treaty with him about it, by reason, it is thought, he doth it not out of love, but out of some sinister respect." Other similar entries also indicate their extreme distrust of him. They had but recently sent over Mr. John Endicott to Mass., as the Governor of the Coloney there; and, to him they sent a letter of instructions, April 17th, 1629, in which they say "Mr. John Oldham, came from New England, not long before your arrival there [indeed the ships which conveyed Gov. Endicott and Oldham respectively, must have crossed each other on the way] by whom we have had no small distraction in our business, having been cast behind at the least, two months' time in our voyage [a shipment of emigrants and supplies which the Company was preparing to send to New England in the *George*, the *Talbot* and *The Lion's Whelp* and which sailed after the middle of April], through the variety of his vast conceits of extraordinary gain of 3 to 1, propounded to us, to be made and raised in three years, if he might have the managing of our stock, professing to be contented for his own employment, so he might have the overplus of his gains. With whom, after long time spent in sundry treaties, finding him a man altogether unfit for us to deal with, we have at last left him to his own way: and, as we are informed, he with some others are providing a vessel, and is minded, as soon as he can dispatch, to come for New England, pretending himself to settle himself in Mass. Bay, claiming a title and right by grant from Sir Fernandino Gorge's son, which we are well satisfied, by good counsel, is void in law. He will admit of

no terms of agreement, unless we will leave him at liberty to trade for beaver with the natives, which we deny to the best of our own planters. Neither is he satisfied to trade for himself, with his own stock and means, which we conceive is so small that it would not much hinder us: but he doth interest other men, who, for aught we know are never likely to be beneficial to the planting of the country; their own particular profits [though to the overthrow of the general plantation] being their chief aim and intent." Then, after asking the Governor to warn the old planters of the colony concerning Oldham, they continue thus: "We find him a man so affected to his own opinion, as not to be removed from it, neither by reason or any persuasion, and unless he may bear sway and have all things carried to his good liking, we have little hope of quiet or comfortable \* \* \* \* where he shall make his abode," and conclude by warning Endicott and his Counsel to "suppress a mischief before it take too great a head."

The instructions, from which we thus quote, show the company's thorough distrust of the man and their anxiety to anticipate his movements and designs to obtain a foothold in the Massachusetts Bay.

Returning to New England in the late summer or fall of 1629 (probably) apparently foiled (at least in the fullness) of his great plans, we next hear of Oldham as being admitted a freeman of the Massachusetts Colony, May 18th, 1631. He was an early settler at Watertown, a church member there and apparently trusted and respected. In May, 1632, he was one of the two Watertown deputies chosen to advise with the Governor and Council about raising a public stock. In the summer of this year, according to Winthrop, "he had a small house near the wear at Watertown, made all of clapboards, burnt down by making a fire in it when it had no chimney," an oversight which we should hardly have expected of so sensible a man as Mr. Oldham. In May, 1634, he was one of that town's three representatives to the first General Court of Massachusetts. And he had fairly earned the reputation of a fearless, enterprising and successful trader and explorer among the Indians of the New England coast, and in the Connecticut Valley. Evidently, he was now showing the better side of his nature. With qualities which might have been of the greatest value to the several communities with whom, from time to time, he was identified, in the planting of New England—if only his principles had been strong enough to resist the leadings of his own personal ambition; but which, lacking that strength, rendered him a dangerous man, led him into grievous trouble and leaves him a smirched and discredited figure upon the horizon of history. Being such as he was,



it was perhaps fortunate, both for the peace of Wethersfield and that of the Connecticut Colony, that his association with them was so soon terminated.—*H. R. S.*]

Hubbard (*Hist. New Eng.*, 1815; *Mass. Hist. Soc.*, pp. 93-94) after stating that Oldham and his friend Lyford, were looked upon by some in the Plymouth Colony, as “seemingly, at least, religious” and that the original cause of their contention was a religious one (a matter of baptism) goes on to say, “which, if there were any tolerable ground that it should pass for the truth, the terms of wickedness with which their practices are branded in the memoirs of New England seem a little, if not much, too harsh; for, according to the old rule, “*De mortuis nil nisi bene*”<sup>1</sup> [say nothing of the dead unless it be charitable]. *The differences of men’s principles and disadvantages of their natural temper (wherein they are apt to be much misled in the management of their designs) ought rather, when there is sincerity, be imputed to the weakness of their virtues, than the wickedness of their vices.*” Mr. Oldham’s property and estate was found to be somewhat scattered, part in Massachusetts, and part in Connecticut, though not, as we can judge, very considerable in amount. The Massachusetts authorities showed great persistence in their attempts to collect it together for the use of his widow and family; and the records of both colonies show ample evidence of their determination to render a full and ample probate record of it.” It was, we presume, the first settlement of an estate made in the plantations upon the Connecticut River.

THE WETHERSFIELD INDIAN MASSACRE OF 1637. Up to this time Wethersfield, with her sister towns, had experienced no especial trouble or annoyance from the Indians. True, there had been some murders committed, such as those of Tilley, Stone, Norton and Oldham, generally of seamen and traders, who, adventuring along the coasts or rivers, insufficiently manned and frequently incautious, as to their personal safety, were easy victims to the cupidity of the savages. But these, after all, seemed to them but sporadic cases in character—isolated instances—having no special relation to one another, and therefore not arousing the fears of the community, who went on peacefully, planting

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<sup>1</sup> The word “lene” (original root of our word *lenient*) here used by Hubbard, seems to us to give a better tone and signification to this ancient quotation than the word *bonum* (good) commonly employed. For, while it may not always be possible to speak “good” (well) of the dead, it is possible, as well as a Christian duty to speak leniently of them as not assuming ourselves to be their judges: but, as leaving that to God, “who is the judge of all things.” *H. R. S.*

<sup>2</sup> *Conn. Col. Rec.*, I., pp. 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 43.

their fields, raising their houses and getting to feel more and more "at home" in their New World surroundings.

[With an official survey of their town's boundaries; a brand new name in place of their older and borrowed one; a new church, small though it was and divided in membership; and a constable to represent "the majesty of the law;" the new township, thus fully equipped with all the requirements called for by the English idea of a town, may be said to have been "getting along famously."<sup>1</sup>

Upon this scene of prosperous activity, there now fell, "like lightning from a clear sky," a disaster so great, as for a time, to paralyze the hearts and energies of the Wethersfield settlers. We refer to the Indian massacre of April 23d, 1637.

The River Indians in the immediate vicinity of the Wethersfield settlers, from whom they had bought their lands, and with whom they were in daily contact, had thus far proved friendly, and though recently there had been some disagreement with them, still there was no reason to consider them as hostile. The Eastern Indians, however, especially the bold and warlike Pequods, had of late shown much restlessness and suspicion of the white man's presence among them; and, by a series of murders and attacks upon property, had kept the English in a constant state of alarm.

Gov. Bradford (*Hist. New Eng.*, p. 419) records, *Anno Dom.*, 1637. "In ye fore parte of this year, the Pequents fell openly upon ye English at Coneghtecute, in the lower parts of ye river, and slew sundry of them (as they were at work in ye fields), both men & women, to ye great terrour of ye rest; and went away in great prid and triumph and many high threats. They allso assaulted a fort at ye river's mouth, though strong and well defended and though they did not there prevaile, yet it struck them [*i. e.*, the English] with much fear and astonishment to see their bould attempts in the face of danger, which made them [*i. e.*, the English] in all places to stand upon their gard, and to prepare for resistance, &c."

To the inhabitants of Wethersfield this state of things must have been very closely brought home by the death of their former leader and fellow citizen, Mr. Oldham, in the preceding summer.

The troubles at the fort at Saybrook, above alluded to by Bradford, are thus more fully spoken of by *Winthrop* (I, 236) who says, under

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<sup>2</sup> Of Wethersfield's *religious* organization we speak more fully in our third chapter, and of its *civil* and *military* organization in our fourth.

date of "8 ber," 1636, after describing a skirmish between the Indians and English there:

"About two days after, five men of Saybrook went up the river about four miles, to fetch hay in a meadow on Pequot side. The grass was so high as some Pequots, being hid in it, set upon our men, and one that had hay upon his back they took; the others fled to their boat, one of them having five arrows in him (but yet recovered). He who was taken was a godly young man called [Daniel] Butterfield, (whereupon the meadow was named Butterfield Meadow). About fourteen days after, six of Saybrook being sent to keep the house in their cornfield, about two miles from the fort, three of them went forth on fowling (which the lieutenant had *strictly* forbidden them). Two had pieces, the third only a sword. Suddenly about one hundred Indians came out of the covert, and set upon them. He who had the sword brake through them (and received only two shot, not dangerous), and escaped to the house which was not a bow shot off, and persuaded the other two to follow him; but they stood still till the Indians came and took them, and carried them away with their pieces. Soon after they [*i. e.*, the Indians] burnt down the said house, and some outhouses and hay stacks within a bow shot of the fort and killed a cow, and shot divers others, but they [*i. e.*, the cows] all came home with the arrows in them."

The young man Butterfield, who was taken by the Indians as above related (and whose Christian name we have supplied in the blank left in the narrative) was a brother-in-law of Mr. Matthew Mitchell, and is said to have been roasted alive by his captors. The buildings, hay, hay stacks and cattle destroyed and injured by these repeated attacks were, also, the property of Mr. Mitchell, who in consequence of these losses and annoyances, and the danger to life involved in his attempt to settle near the Saybrook fort, was obliged next year to remove to Wethersfield, of which place he was for sometime an honored citizen, finally removing with others to Branford.—*H. R. S.*

THE BLOW FALLS UPON WETHERSFIELD.—In April, 1637, a party of Pequods, some say two hundred, came up the Connecticut River in canoes as far as "The Island" (no longer extant) and, from that standpoint, watched their opportunity to pounce, probably in the early morning, upon certain of the Wethersfield people who were at work upon the meadows on the adjacent west bank of the river. The unfortunate settlers were probably clearing and preparing their lands there for the spring plowing; men and women being alike busy and wholly unsuspecting of danger, when they were suddenly set upon by the

savages; and, in the quick tumult and struggle which ensued, six men and three women were killed. Capt. Underhill says that nine women and a child were slain.<sup>1</sup> *Winthrop*, however, says, under date of May 12th, 1637, "We received a letter from Mr. Haynes," who had just previously removed with his family to Connecticut, "and others, being then at Saybrook, that the Pekods had been up the river to Wethersfield and had killed six men, being at their work, twenty cows, and a man and had killed three women and carried away two maids;"<sup>2</sup> and *Winthrop's* statement may probably be considered as the most correct version of the tragedy. The two maids thus ruthlessly hurried into captivity, were the daughters of Mr. William Swayne, "Gentleman," the eldest of whom was but sixteen; and another daughter who was murdered is the only woman whom we can identify of the three who were reported as killed.<sup>3</sup>

Having done this mischief, the savages departed as quickly as they had appeared—much elated with their performance, and insolently attracting the attention of the garrison at the Saybrook fort, as they sailed past, by hoisting up poles in their canoes, upon which they hung the

<sup>1</sup> Capt. *Underhill's News from America*, London, 1638.

<sup>2</sup> Capt. Mason (account in *Mass. Hist. Soc. Collections, Second Series, VIII, p. 120*) says "lay in ambush for the English: divers of them (*i. e.* the settlers) going into a large Field adjoining to the Town to their Labour" [probably in the morning, as the Indians may have come up the River in the night, unseen, and hidden themselves on or near the Island over night.—H. R. S.] Philip Vincent's *True Relation* of the great battle fought in New England, between the English and the Pequot Savages, London, 1638, reprinted in *Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., Third Series, Vol. VI.*, says "the Indians fell upon some that were sawing" which seems improbable as the low meadow land at that point would be unsuitable, especially at that season of the year, for the use of saw-pits, in which, at that day, sawing was performed. Vincent also says "they sleu nine more, whereof one was a woman, the other a child, and took two young maids prisoners." But we still prefer to adhere to *Winthrop's* account as the more probable.

A letter from Thomas Hooker of Hartford, to Gov. John Winthrop, (*Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., Fourth Series, Vol. VI.*), informs the latter "how the pequots have made an inrode by a suddayne surprisal vpon some of our brethren of Watertown, slaying women & children, who were sent out carelessly, without watch and guard, this bearer will tell you."

Hubbard, (*Narrative of the troubles with Indians in New England*), thus tells the story: "But, surprising many of the English, in the year 1636, when the Connecticut first began to be planted, divers of whom were killed (nine at one time, in April, 1637) by them about Wethersfield, when the plantation first began, so as they could not pass up and down the River, without a guard, but they would be in danger of being cut off or carried away, as two maids were said to be."

"Drake, in his edition of Hubbard's *Indian Wars*, (1865), Vol. 2, p. 12, note), makes the loss six men and one woman killed, and two girls carried off, which makes a total of nine.



clothes of their slain victims, in imitation of the sails of the white man's ships.<sup>1</sup> Nothing could be done by the soldiers in the fort, to rescue the captive maidens, who could plainly be discerned in the savages' canoes. Capt. Lyon Gardiner in command of the fort, did, indeed, order a cannon to be discharged at the fleet of canoes, which came near putting the fair captives in even more danger than before—for the ball struck and demolished the prow or beak of the canoe in which they were. This is the gallant Captain's own account of the affair, in a letter written by him, June 12, 1660, to Robert Chapman and Thomas Hurlbut (the latter of whom was a Wethersfield man and an old soldier), wherein, at their request, he gives his recollections "of some passages of God's providence at Seabrooke in and about the time of the Pequot war:

"Down comes Capt. Mason and Sergeant Seeley, with five more, to see how it was with us [at the fort, where Gardiner was in command] and whilst they were there, came down a Dutch boat [from Hartford] telling us the Indians had killed fourteen English [evidently the first exaggerated rumor of the Wethersfield massacre]. \* \* \* \* \* The next, or second day after, came down a great many canoes, going down the creek, beyond the marsh, before the fort, many of them [the Indians] having white shirts. Then I commanded the carpenter, whom I had showed how to load great guns, to put in two round shot into the Sackers [a small cannon of the olden time] and we leveled them at a certain place, and I stood [by] to bid him give fire. When I thought

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1 "But they, seeing there was no advantage more to be had against the fort, they enterprized a new action, and fell upon Watertown, now called Wethersfield, with two hundred Indians. Before they came to attempt the place they put into a certain river, an obscure small river running into the main, where they encamped and refreshed themselves, and fitted themselves for their service, and by break of day attempted their enterprize, and slew nine men, women and children. Having finished their action, they suddenly returned again, bringing with them two maids, captives, having put poles in their boats, as we put masts in our boats, and upon them hung our Englishmen's and women's shirts and smocks, instead of sails, and in way of bravado came along in sigh of us as we stood upon Saybrook fort. And seeing them pass along in such a triumphant manner, we much fearing they had enterprized some desperate action upon the English, we gave fire with a piece of ordinance, and shot among their canoes. And though they were a mile from us, yet the bullet grazed not above twenty yards over the canoe, where the poor maids were." —*News from America, by Capt. John Underhill, London, 1638, (3rd. Series, Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll. Vol. VI.)*

According to the gallant Capt. Underhill's account, the ball had not nearly as true an aim as told by Capt. Gardiner. Yet, when old soldiers get "fighting their battles o'er" it is not well to insist too strenuously upon exact accuracy of details like this.

the canoe would meet [*i. e.*, come within range of] the bullet; and one of them [*i. e.*, the round shot] took off the nose of a great canoe *wherein the two maids were* that were taken by the Indians,<sup>1</sup> whom I redeemed and clothed; for the Dutchmen whom I sent to fetch them brought them away almost naked from Pequit [New London], they [the Dutchmen] putting on [them] their own linen jackets to cover their nakedness. And though the redemption cost me ten pounds, I am yet [he was writing this account 23 years after] to have thanks for my care and charge about them [which was certainly very negligent and unhand-some on the part of somebody]. These things are known to Major Mason." The Captain should have remembered that virtue is *supposed* to be its own reward.

The Captain's claim to having redeemed the Swaine girls is somewhat weakened by the statement of the usually correct Winthrop, who says (*Hist. New Eng. I*, p. 267):

"The Dutch governor sent a sloop to Pequot to redeem the two English maidens, *by what means soever*, though it was with breach of their [*i. e.*, the Dutch Colony's] peace with the Pequots. The sloop offered largely for their ransom; but nothing would be accepted. So the Dutch, having many Pequots aboard, stayed six of them (the rest leaped overboard) and with them redeemed the two maids, who had been well used by the Pequods, and no violence offered them."

We are willing, however, to believe that both Captain Gardiner and the Dutch governor were gallantly in earnest, and that both were equally instrumental in effecting this relief. *Savage's* note to the above extract from Winthrop seems to intimate (quoting from *Johnson II*, p. 17), that the object of the Indians in sparing and detaining these maids, was from a hope that they might be able to learn from them the art of making gunpowder. Partly to this, and certainly to the womanly heart of the squaw of Mononotto, the sachem next in rank to Sassacus, they owed their preservation and good treatment while in the hands of their rude captors.<sup>1</sup>—*H. R. S.*]

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<sup>1</sup> This good squaw, with her two children, was among the many Indian captives taken by the English, in the subsequent Pequot campaign: and it is pleasant to know, from contemporary history, that "her behavior and demeanor were such as to win the respect of even the most violent Indian haters."—Bodge's *Soldiers of King Philip's War*, p. 19. Winthrop, in his letter to the Plymouth authorities, dated "28th of ye 5th mo., 1637" (and given in Bradford's *Hist. New Eng.*, p. 49) writes "amongst ye prisoners we have ye wife and children of Mononotto, a woman of very modest countenance and behavior. It was by her mediation that the two English maids were spared from death, and were kindly used by her, so that *I have taken charge of her*. One of her first requests was that the English would not abuse her

Only two of the Indians actively engaged in this attack were ever fully identified (pp. 63, 64, 65, and notes). In October, 1639, Lieut. Robert Seeley, then "Marshall" of the Quinnipiack (New Haven) plantation, whither he had removed from Wethersfield, arrested at the house of Mr. Theophilus Eaton, a Pequot Indian Messutunck, *alias* Nepaupuck, who was thereupon tried (apparently without much formality in the judicial proceedings) and convicted as one of those who had "murderously shed the blood of some of the English." The General Court at Quinnipiack assumed full jurisdiction of the case, and, principally upon the enforced evidence of Newhebato, "Quinnipiack Indian and kinsman to Nepaupuck" and the voluntary testimony of Wattoone, "son of Carrahoode, a counsellor to the Quinnipiack Sagamore," found that the terror-stricken Indian had killed Abraham Finch, Jr., one of the Wethersfield victims. Wattoone, indeed, stated plainly that he was a witness of the murder, having seen it from the island, opposite to the Great Meadow, in which the deed was done. Wattoone, also, went so far as to say that Nepaupuck was the captor of one of the Swaine girls. In accordance with the sentence of the Court Nepaupuck's "head was cut of[f] the next day, and pitched upon a pole in the market place."<sup>2</sup>—As to the murderer of the Swaine girl, see next page.

[It is probable that some of the Indians who were engaged in this massacre were of those who, at Saybrook, on the 22d of February, in the same year, made an attack on Lieut. Lyon Gardiner, Robert Chapman, Thomas Hurlbut (the Wethersfield man) and some eight others, who were engaged in burning the weeds along the marsh, on the Neck." Hurlbut was wounded in the thigh, but lived to remove to Wethersfield (probably the same season) and was later an active and brave fighter in subsequent Indian campaigns. Gardiner himself was wounded. One of the men was killed by an arrow which entered one side and passed half through a rib on the other—which arrow, Gardiner says he "took it out and cleaned it and presumed to *send it to the Bay, because they had said that the arrows of the Indians were of no force*—a fine retort, sarcastic, unimpeachable and convincing, we should think, to the wise

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body, and that her children might not be taken from her." We infer, from the passage we have italicized in Winthrop's letter, that this "good Indian" was, with her children, spared from the fate that befell most of these many Indian prisoners, viz.: slavery among their captors, or in the far West Indies.

<sup>2</sup> The reader will find a circumstantial account of this trial in Hoadley's *New Haven Colonial Records*, I., pp. 22-24. Also in Preface to *Foote Genealogy*, p. XXV.

men of the Bay. See Gardiner's *Relation of the Pequot Wars, Mass. Hist. Soc. Col., Third Series*, Vol. III, p. 131.—H. R. S.]

No one, as far as known to the author, has ever recorded the names of the victims of this onslaught; and the following *probabilities* are offered as suggestions, in relation to all but the one SWAINE girl that was murdered and to ABRAHAM FINCH, Jr. In regard to the former, we have the following information, elicited many years after (January, 1671-2) as stated by Thomas Stanton in a letter to the governor and assistants at Hartford. One Odonquenomun (or Odoqueminon) was indirectly charged with having been with the Pequots when they did the massacre on Wethersfield Meadow, where they took three English maidens; two they carried with them; the other was left by the river-side; and Odonqueminoman demanded of his fellows where the other maid was. They answered him: "We have left her on the other side the river." Said he: "I will goe over and kill her, so he did as reported." It does not appear that any arrest or trial followed upon this evidence, which was furnished by "James, the Kinsman," or Mow-ween, an Indian of that vicinity.<sup>1</sup>

ABRAHAM FINCH, Jr., the other positively known victim of the massacre, left an aged father of the same name, and who is sometimes mentioned in the records as "Ould Finch." He lived on the east side of Broad Street, near its north end; while the son lived next south, adjoining. He left a son Abraham, who was adopted by the grandfather.

THOMAS KILBOURN, father of Sgt. John, probably died as early as Finch, for his estate seems to have been settled, if at all, before Finch's, which was in September, 1640—the earliest recorded settlements of estates in Wethersfield, being in 1639, several years after the massacre. Kilbourn's widow lived on the west side of Broad Street, in 1640, and her deceased husband had five acres of land by the river, not far from Finch's land and about where the massacre must have occurred. JOHN BRUNDISH, who lived on the northeast side of what is now Sandy Lane, left an estate intestate, settled as such in November, 1639.<sup>2</sup> He had four daughters and a son, all, perhaps, some certainly, under age. He had several pieces of meadow land at or near the scene of the massacre. It is certain that he was cut off unprepared, so far as having made testamentary disposal of his estate.<sup>1</sup> STEPHEN, the supposed hus-

<sup>1</sup> *State Archives*, in Secretary of State's office: *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, Vol. I., p. 53.

<sup>2</sup> The widow Rachel Brundish presented the inventory of her husband's estate to the Court, April 2, 1640, *Conn. Col. Rec.* I., 45.



band of JOYCE WARD, *may* have been one of the slain, though the exact date of his death is not ascertainable. He had five sons (the eldest in England) and at least one daughter, the wife of John Fletcher, an original settler at Wethersfield. The widow Joyce died in February, 1640-1; her will was made November, 1640. THOMAS ADAMS, of whom the writer has been unable to find any trace in this connection, is mentioned in the Wethersfield records in the description of a piece of meadowland at the scene of the massacre. In 1640, Richard Westcott, whose land in question was then "entered," says it is bounded on the south by the "meadow sometymes Tho. Adams." We think it probable that Adams *may* have been one of the slain. Beyond the above named, we dare not venture further in the field of conjecture, unless we mention that the Widow JORDON is incidently referred to as the owner of meadow in the same field, as early as 1647. Her husband's name is nowhere found on record.

We may add that John Finch was not, as some (*Savage*, among the rest) have supposed, among the victims. He subsequently removed with his brother David, to Stamford. Also, that Mr. Hezekiah Belden, in (unpublished) manuscripts in Library of the *Conn. Historical Society*, is in error in supposing that the tragedy was enacted near the place of the present Steamboat Landing. He overlooks the fact that *the river was then a mile to the eastward of its present course*, opposite the said landing, and there is no doubt that the slaughter took place on or near the bank along the river "tier" of lots, and against "The Island," half a mile below. The captured Swayne girls were probably at work upon their father's land there, and were not at the dwelling house, which was in the northeast corner of the present Prison Street.

As was perfectly natural, under the circumstances and especially since there had been some recent friction between the settlers and their immediate Indian neighbors at Pyquaug, suspicion of complicity, at least, in this murderous attack, pointed strongly to Sowheage and his tribe. Gov. Winthrop, of Plymouth Colony (in his *Journal*, *Savage's Edition*) says, under date of 1st mo. 30, 1638:<sup>1</sup>

"There came letters from Connecticut to the governor of the Massachusetts, to desire advise from the magistrates and elders here about Sequin and the Indians of the river, who had underhand (as was conceived) procured the Pequods to do that onslaught at Wethersfield the

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<sup>1</sup> *Winthrop's Hist. of New England*, [Savage's edition], Vol. I., p. 260.

last year.<sup>1</sup> The case fell out to be this: Sequin gave the English land there, upon contract that he might sit down by them, and be protected, etc. When he came to Wethersfield and had set down his wigwam, they drave him away by force. Whereupon, he not being of strength to repair this injury by open force, he secretly draws in the Pequots. Such of the magistrates and elders as could meet on the sudden, returned this answer, viz.: That, if the cause were thus, Sequin might, upon this injury first offered by them, right himself either by force or fraud; and that by the law of nations, and though the damage he had done them had been one hundred times more than what he sustained from them, that is not considerable [*i. e.*, not to be considered] in point of a just war; neither was he bound to seek satisfaction in a peaceable way; it was enough that he had complained of it as an injury and breach of covenant. According to this advice they [the Wethersfield people] proceeded and made a new agreement with the Indians of the river."

This decision by the magistrates and elders of the Massachusetts Colony, to whom the case had been appealed, was based upon the immutable principles of justice; it was clear, even-handed, unimpassioned, and eminently creditable to their Christianity and sagacity. Equally so was the action of the "Corte" in Connecticut upon the reception of this advice from their friends in the Bay—as recorded at their session of April 15th, 1638:

"Whereas, upon full debate and hearinge, the matters of injuries & difference betweene Sowheage, an Indian, the Sachem of Pyquaaug, now called Wythersfield, & the English inhabitants thereof, and it ap- pres to the Corte that ther hath been divers injuries offered by some of the saide English inhabitants to the said Sowheage, as also the saide Sowheage & his men have likewise comitted diuers outrages & wronges against the saide English, yet as was conceived the first breache was on the saide English prte; All former wronges whatsoever are remitted on both sides, and the saide Sowheage is again received in Amytie to the said English & Mr. Stone, Mr. Goodwin & Tho. Stanton are desired to goe to the said Sowheage & to treat with him accordinge to the best of their discretion & to compose matters betweene

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<sup>1</sup> Capt. John Mason, also, in his *Relations*, tells of the affair at Wethersfield, and of the Pequots as "having formerly confederated with the Indians of that place, Wethersfield, as was generally thought"—showing the inevitable, but not always just drift of public opinion.

the said English and the saide Sowheage and uppon their reporte there shalbe some setled course in the thing.”<sup>1</sup>

This manly official avowal of wrong done to the Indians and the straight-forward move to right the wrong, testifies, as nothing could better do, to the high principles which actuated our forefathers. And now, having cleared Sowheage’s memory from the stain which fell upon it from the Wethersfield massacre, and having paid our tribute to the moral courage of the settlers on the Connecticut, we proceed to trace the further history of Wethersfield.

THE PEQUOT CAMPAIGN. It was the murder of Mr. Oldham, in 1636, and the massacre at Wethersfield, in 1637, which—like flint striking steel—set the spark of fire to the smouldering resentment of the white settlers of both Connecticut and the Massachusetts Colonies. The first line of the Court at its session at Hartford, on the first of May following, rings clear and sharp: “It is ordered that there shall be an offensive war against the Pequots.” English blood was up; the matter must be settled now by the sword and “to the finish.” Ninety men were immediately levied out of the three plantations, viz.: Hartford, 42; Windsor, 30; Wethersfield, 18. The towns were, also, severally levied upon for provisions. Wethersfield was called upon to furnish thirty-six bushels of “corne,” one-half in the shape of biscuit, if possible, the rest in meal; and a bushel of “Indian beanes” (the only plantation required to furnish this article of diet). Subsequently, June 2d, the town was called to furnish six more men to form part of a company of thirty, under Lieut. Seeley’s command; and to further contribute to the commissary department twelve bushels of corn (grain), thirty pounds of butter, one hogshead of pease, two bushels of oatmeal, and one hundred fifty pounds of beef. On the 7th of June, she was levied upon for two more men, also *one hogg* (“to be got of Nathaniel Foote”)—(had he a special “pull” on the contractor, or was his pork of a better

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<sup>1</sup> It may be, that, aside from the “serious injuries offered” to the Indians by the whites—as seem to be here admitted—there had also been a neglect, or delay on the part of the latter in closing up the bargain between them and Soheag, which “hitch” was irritating and had aroused the suspicion of the chief and his followers: for, the Gen. Court of Apl. 11, 1639, referred to a Committee, (Gov. Haynes, Dep. Gov. Ludlow, Mr. Wyllys, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Steele and Mr. Spencer), several matters, one of which was “to put Mr. Goodwin in mind of finishing the treaty [ ] of the Town of Wethersfield, with Seq[uin] concerning the land beyond [*i. e.* on the East side?] the River.”—*Conn. Col. Rec.*, I., 28.

It may be, therefore, that the (proverbial) “law’s delay” was one cause of friction between the parties concerning the purchase of land at Pyquaug. See p. 43, *ante*.

kind than his neighbors'—why this preference as to a very common kind of food?)—fifty pounds of cheese, and two bushels of malt—for, surely the Englishmen could not go to war without their beer. Thus, for the whole campaign, the three river towns were levied upon as follows: Hartford, 61; Windsor, 43; Wethersfield, 26 soldiers; and the expenses of the “trip” or war tax thus announced by the Court, February 9th, 1638: Hartford, £250, 2s.; Wethersfield, £124; Windsor, £158, 2s. Agawam (Springfield, then in the Connecticut jurisdiction) £186, 16s., which amounts were allowed to be paid in wampum, at the rate of four for a penny, or in beaver at 9s. per pound.

This little army of invasion was placed under the command of Capt. John Mason, of Windsor, and Lieut. Robert Seeley, of Wethersfield, “& the eldest Sjeant or military officer survivinge, if both these miscarry.” The soldiers from the several towns rendezvoused at Hartford and after religious exercises their hearts were reinforced by an exhortation from the Rev. Thomas Hooker, in the course of which he said to them, “although gold and silver be wanting to either of you, yet have you that to maintaine which is farre more precious, the lives, liberties and new purchased freedoms of the endeared servants of our Lord Jesus, and of your second selves, even your affectionated bosome-mates, together with the chief pledges of your love, the comforting contents of harmless prating and smiling babes.” So, leaving their “affectionated bosome-mates” these “endeared servants of the Lord,” girt in battle array, and duly provided with “one hogshead of good beare for the Captaine & Mr. [Minister] & sick men,” and with “three or four gallons of stronge water” and “two gallons of sack,” set sail from Hartford in a fleet, of “pink, pinnace and shallop, accompanied with many Indian canoes” on their errand of retribution. We need not go into a detailed relation of an expedition so well known to every one who has any knowledge of New England history. Capt. John Mason’s *Relation* of it is a classic, in its way, and grimly picturesque. Suffice it to say that the punishment inflicted upon the savages was overwhelming. That one day’s battle, at the taking of the fort at Mystic on the 26th of May, 1637, was a revelation to the Pequots of the white man’s power, which they had not expected. So completely were they cowed that many fell an easy prey to the very River Indians whom they had previously despised and tyrannized over; and by whom their ghastly, grinning heads were now frequently exhibited in the public squares of the river towns as trophies.

It is not known that any *Wethersfield* man was killed in the Pequot campaign, in which it is said that but two of the English were slain;



in the principal fight of May 26th, Lieut. Seeley, of Wethersfield, second in command, was the second to enter the Indian stronghold. We know not all we would like to know concerning the part borne in this fight by Wethersfield men. It is possible that an exhaustive search of all donees of "Soldiers' Lands" might elicit the names of some, but all other data seem lacking. From the best data obtainable we may feel pretty sure that the following were among the twenty-six who went forth from Wethersfield:

George Chappel, the elder of the	William Palmer
two (not related) bearing that	John Plumb
name. <sup>1</sup>	Mr. Thomas Parke (or, Robert Parke).
John Clarke	Robert Rose
William Comstock	Samuel Sherman
William Cross	Henry (or Samuel) Smith
Ens. William Goodrich	Lieut. Robert Seeley
Samuel Hale	William Treat
Thomas Hale	Thomas Tracy, later Lieutenant
Thomas Hurlbut (though he may	Jacob Waterhouse
not have come up from Say-	Richard Wescott
brook as early as this).	Thomas Standish
Jeremy Jagger	
Sgt. John Nott	

Capt. Mason, in his account of the fight, says: "Lieutenant SEELEY was shot in the eyebrow with a flat headed arrow, the point turning downwards. I pulled it out myself."

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<sup>1</sup> [We credited this GEORGE CHAPPEL, in our *History of Windsor*, to the Pequot soldiers from that town, on the very natural assumption that, as he was one of a party of the settlers of Windsor, who came thither in the Saltenstall vessel, under the charge of Mr. Francis Stiles, to whom he was later apprenticed; he was a resident there at the time of the Pequot war and would most naturally, (being a young man of 20), enlist in that campaign, with his fellow apprentices, Thomas Stiles, Thomas Barber and John Dyer, whom we know to have been in the Windsor company. But, as Windsor Land, or other record, give no further hint of his connection with Windsor; and as Wethersfield records do give items concerning three of the same name in Weth., I am constrained to think, with Mr. Adams, that he should properly be credited to the Wethersfield contingent of Capt. Mason's little army.

John Johnson, mentioned in *Conn. Col. Recs.*, II., 161 and Nathaniel Merriam, mentioned in *Conn. Col. Rec.*, IV., 276, and both credited by Tarbox, in the *Hartford Co. Mem. Hist.* to Wethersfield, do not appear upon any Wethersfield record. The latter's Christian name is not given in the *Col. Recs.*, and only appears in connection (later) with a grant made to his son John, of Wethersfield, in consideration of his father's services in the Pequot campaign. Nor is there any evidence that Sgt. Thomas Tibballs, (*Conn. Col. Rec.*, II., 147), whom Tarbox also credits to Wethersfield, ever resided there.—H. R. S.]

It is probable, also that Capt. Samuel Talcott, Lieut. John Hollister, Ens. Hugh Wells, Samuel Boardman and Mr. Josiah Willard, took part in military matters at a somewhat later date; since their services seem to be recognized by the fact of their having received grants of land or other favors, from the General Court. Boardman and Talcott were in Wethersfield, as early as 1636-7. Thomas Hurlbut in the above list, may not have been a stated settler at Wethersfield at this date, nor prior to 1638. He was in the Saybrook garrison, a brave and valuable soldier and was there seriously wounded February 22d, 1637. But he must have removed to Wethersfield shortly after, probably in company with Mr. Matthew Mitchell, who suffered great hardships and losses at Saybrook from the Indians (see p. 27, *ante*). Hurlbut, at all events, received a special grant of three hundred acres, west of Mt. Lamentation, from the General Court, in consideration of his services in Indian campaigns. These soldiers were absent from home about three weeks and two days, and received (reckoning six days to the week) 1s. 6d. per day; sergeants 20d. and lieutenants 20s. per week; the captain 40s. per week, and each man subsequently received a large grant of land.

During the next month an army of occupation of thirty men under Lieutenant Seeley of Wethersfield was sent down to the Pequot country "to maintain our rights, that God by conquest hath given us."

In the fall of the year, also, the Connecticut Colony took measures to effect an offensive and defensive alliance with the Massachusetts Bay authorities, against the Indians and for a permanent occupation of the Pequot country. Moreover, a new danger threatened the country. The recent campaign had drawn very heavily upon the country's resources; a public debt had been incurred; the fields had been drained of laborers by the requirements of the war, and were but imperfectly tilled; crops were short; the winter set in unusually early and severe; and there was a threatened scarcity of provisions. The strenuous exertions of the authorities, however, fortunately averted the danger of a famine; and no time was lost in putting the colony into a state of military effectiveness. In March, 1638, the Court ordered fifty "corselets," or coats of armor, to be provided, viz.: In Hartford, 21; Windsor 12; Wethersfield, 10; Agawam, 7, within six months. These were made of heavy cotton cloth, basted with cotton wool and worn over their skin or fur coats, as an additional protection against Indian arrows. All persons above the age of sixteen were ordered to bear arms, unless excused by the Court; commissioners and church officers were relieved from "bearing arms, watchings and wardings." Every military man was to have continually in his house "in readiness" one and one-half pounds

of good powder, two pounds of bullets, suitable to his piece, one pound of match "if his piece be a matchlock," under penalty of five shillings for every default. Each town was to provide a magazine of powder and shot, and any town neglecting to provide such, was fined forty shillings, and ten shillings every month until they complied with the order.

It may be asked by the reader, were there, at this time, no fortified houses or places in Wethersfield to which resort might have been made in time of danger? This question must remain unanswered. *Some sort* of a fortified place must have existed long enough, by 1640, to have given the name of "Fort Street" to the street on which the State Prison now stands. And, taking the topography of the "plantation," as it must have been at that period, that would be the place where such a defense would most likely have been built, viz.: On the north side of then Fort Street, on the high ground near the river, where the land was then the common property of the township. And this would have afforded the best reason for naming the present street "Fort Street." There is a tradition that there was a fort in the rear of the premises now occupied by the heirs of the late Frederick Butler, on the east side of High Street. This, however, would have been too far away from the river, on the then private property of John Deming, and could have had no connection with the naming of Fort Street. It has been claimed that foundation stones of such a fort have been found on the Butler lot; but we doubt whether stones (especially as they would have to be brought there from a long distance) were used at all, in the fort or forts in question. Wooden palisades were in more general use, for a long time after this period, for purposes of fortification, than stone.

[GRADUAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATION. That our forefathers were early confronted with some of the problems inherent in the organization of a new settlement, is evident from some of the Court records of that time. For example, in 1637, that body had felt obliged to promulgate an order that no young man without wife or servant, who was not the holder of a public office, should keep house by himself; and that no master of a family should give board to any young man to dwell in his family, without the permission of the town, under a penalty of twenty shillings per week; this enactment to take effect on the 1st of April, next ensuing.

The fact was, that among the more staid and respectable class of settlers, there had also come in a number of what might be styled, in

Bible phraseology, "fellows of the baser sort;" some young men, servants, adventurers, etc., men of no estate and no fixed principles, to whom the new settlement afforded opportunities of bettering their condition, and who, by their reckless ways and intolerance of established order, became (or were liable to become) a nuisance to the community. This is evident from certain entries of cases dealt with by the General Court, as thus: 1638, April 11th, John Edwards "for unclean practices, to be whipt at a cart's tail, on a lecture day, at Hartford." Another man (not of Wethersfield) for similar offences to stand in the pillory, from the ringing of the first bell to the end of lecture, and to be whipt two days after at Windsor. August 1st, John Lattimer was one of five who were censured and fined (from 10s. to 20s. each) for unreasonable and immoderate drinking at the Pinnacle.

September 5th, 1639, Samuel Ireland for contempt of Court for not appearing when summoned, fined 10s.

February 26th, 1640, Jefry Ferris, for declaring that certain referees in a certain case were not disinterested, fined 20s. Richard Westcott, for misleading Jno. Whitmore, in the same, fined 10s. June 4th, Edward Veare, fined 10s. for cursing and swearing, and "is also to sit in the stocks for two hours the next training day." June 11th, Richard Gildersly (Gildersleeve) convicted before the Court for "pernitous speaking," tending to the detriment and dishonor of the commonwealth, fined 40s. and bound over in a bond of £20. It is evident, moreover, that this spirit of insubordination was not entirely confined to the lower class, but had influenced some who were of better social condition; as in March, 1638, Thurston Raynor, a member of the Court, from Wethersfield, was fined one shilling for not being present at the appointed time; and, in the following April, he and George Hubbard, fellow members of the Court from Wethersfield, were again fined for the same fault.

THE ADOPTION OF "THE FUNDAMENTAL ORDERS," GENERALLY KNOWN AS THE "CONSTITUTION OF THE COLONY OF CONNECTICUT" COLONY OF 1638-9. In the light of their past civic experiences and in the face of the serious dangers which had lately confronted, and indeed were still confronting, the colony, there was a general feeling among the people of these three river towns, that a more perfect consolidation of their interests, in the form of an independent colonial government, was not only desirable, but imperative. Up to this time these towns had been virtually governed by a commission established by and issuing from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Strictly speaking, this commis-



sion had no force, *proprio vigore*, after the settlers had left the Massachusetts colony, but it served its purpose as a temporary basis of organization until a different form of government could be supplied. Its authority was beyond doubt, perfectly valid; its members were not usurpers, but rulers *de facto*, and their powers, wisely and benignly exercised, were submitted to loyally by the communities under their charge. From time to time they met in a sort of rotation, as to places of session, until May, 1637, when "committees," later called "deputies," were elected by each town to assist the commissioners; from which arrangement our present Senate and House of Representatives were evolved.

But, by this time, it was felt and fairly admitted by all concerned that these Connecticut plantations had quite outgrown the "swaddling clothes" of infancy, and were entitled to the privileges of a freer life and personality. The Patentees of Connecticut, whose rights and plans had ever been a sort of *incubus* hovering over the horizon of the settlers, had, by this time, relinquished their undertaking; and the people felt at liberty to act for themselves in the matter of their own government.

It has been generally considered, hitherto, that the Constitution of 1639, extolled as "the first written Constitution, defining its own powers, which the World ever saw" was the work of the people, adopted by them *en masse*, at the celebrated gathering of January 14th, 1638-9. But we lean very much to the opinion expressed by ROGER WELLES, Esq., in a brief but masterly article in the *Hartford Evening Post*, of March 23d, 1889, who proves conclusively, as it seems to us, that this famous document was adopted, not by the people, but by the vote of the General Court itself—acting undoubtedly as the exponent of the people.

These fundamental orders were modeled upon the Constitution of the Congregational Church, and from the day of their adoption to the present day, have suffered no radical change; the Constitution of 1818 being merely an enlargement of the same principles, to meet the necessities of a more numerous population and of a wider and more complicated state of society.

Mr. Welles presents the following cogent reasons in support of his views (thus condensed by us):

1. The adoption of these Orders is recorded in the records of the General Court, just as any other of its doings would have been recorded.

2. The record is very brief, "14th January, 1638, the 11 orders above said are voted."—A most natural and proper way of recording their own act, in their own Court record.

3. If these orders had been passed in a mass meeting of the people

of the Three Towns, or in either town separately, it would almost certainly have been noted in some record, Colonial or Town, or preserved in some tradition. Again it was not customary, at that date, or for many years after, to submit such questions to a popular vote.

4. The 14th of January was a inclement season and most unpropitious for a general assembling of the people, owing to the severe cold and heavy snows.

5. The General Court subsequently amended these Fundamental Orders without any submission of them to the people—see *Conn. Col. Rec.*, for sessions of October 10, 1639; November 10, 1643, *et alios* showing that these amendments were passed by the Court itself. That passed at the session last referred to above, is evidently an amendment, or rather the Court's own judicial interpretation of the original seventh fundamental order recorded as their reason for the change, and with no reference to the people. These "fundamental orders" were so called in regard to their fundamental importance, and not on account of any exceptional mode of adoption.

6. At a Court held September 10, 1639, the following order was passed, to-wit: Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Welles, Mr. Steele and Mr. Spencer are intrusted to *ripen some orders* that were left unfinished [by] the former Court, as about provision of settling lands, testaments of the deceased, etc., etc. These orders that were to be "ripened" were those passed October 10, 1639, before mentioned. But, what was "the former Court" here referred to? It was the former Court in which these after ripened orders were "left unfinished." That was its all-sufficient designation. There was no Court where these fundamental orders, or any orders of a fundamental character, could have been formulated between that held January 14, 1638-9, and this Court held September 10, 1639. The inference is almost irresistible that the "former Court" was the Court held January 14, 1638-9 (N. S. January 24, 1639), and which then adopted the Fundamental Orders, but had not time to finish that part of the business relating to towns. This conclusion throws light on another question namely, who drafted the Fundamental Orders? What more likely than that the Committee who were appointed to "ripen the unfinished orders," viz.: Messrs. Hopkins, Welles, Steele and Spencer, all of Hartford, and who were certainly the authors of our town system of local self government. It seems altogether probable that the original committee who were chosen to the business of drafting the Orders, should be selected to finish it.

[Mr. Welles, in this reference to the authors of the Constitution of

1639, makes a strong case against our own preconceived belief (see *Hist. Windsor*, I. p. 73, as well as that hitherto held by Connecticut people generally), that Roger Ludlow, Esq., of Windsor, was the author of that instrument.—*H. R. S.*]

The *Great Flood of 1639* was another event which specially affected the three river towns. Though Wethersfield has not the record of that remarkable event which Windsor possesses, in the notes made by her Town Recorder, old Matthew Grant; yet, it cannot be doubted that she had her share of the trouble, and, perhaps, of the disasters, which accompanied that remarkable manifestation of nature's operations.

We may hope, however, that in a way of compensation, as it were, Wethersfield shared somewhat in the *real estate* "boom" (consequent upon the incoming of many new immigrants from England) which Windsor enjoyed during the summer of this year (1639). Indeed, a careful survey of our land records, gives us some pretty sure conclusions, that such must have been the case, and that the population of Wethersfield was visibly and worthily increased during that summer. And, for the permanent establishing and retaining of the newcomers, the town found it necessary to enact certain rules and regulations as to home lots. Thus in its first recorded vote (probably in 1640) they declared a forfeiture of any person's lot if he should remove from the town within four years after its being granted to him; also, persons selling out their home lot and improvements must give the town the first chance to buy; and a house must be built upon the lot within a year after it was granted, or else be forfeited to the town, as was the case with Thos. Olcott and Clement Chapin in 1640, they having removed elsewhere. Allotments of home lots had evidently been made before 1640, since several having proved unsatisfactory, a special committee was appointed, in January, 1640, to co-operate with the townsmen in re-stating them.

THE SECOND PEQUOT CAMPAIGN. During the remainder of the year 1639, public attention was again excited by the restless and hostile attitude of the Indians throughout the Massachusetts and Connecticut Colonies. The "storm centre" of danger appears to have been near Wethersfield, where the intervention of Messrs. Stone, Goodwin and Stanton, appointed by the April Court, of 1638, to adjust matters between the planters of that town and Sowheage, the Mattabeeset chieftain, had, thus far, borne no results. The Wethersfield men had (or thought they had) discovered who were the real perpetrators of the massacre of 1637, and demanded their arrest and delivery from Sowheage, who, his feelings still ruffled by the suspicions of the white men, and perhaps, also,

by the still unsettled land question, refused to hand over the suspected Indians, and carried himself somewhat haughtily, or, as the record reads "added new insults and injuries to old." Trouble was plainly brewing, and the Connecticut Court, convened on the 15th of August, 1639, issued the following ringing challenge to the fight: "The manifold insolences that have been offered of late by the Indians, put the Court in mind of that which hath been too long neglected, viz.: the execution of justice vppon the former murtherers of the English, and it was upon serious consideration and debate thought necessary and accordingly determined, that some speedy course be taken therein, and for effecting hereof it was considered that 100 men be levyed and sent down to Matabesecke, where several guilty persons reside and have beene harbored by Soheage, notwithstanding all meanes by way of persuation have beene formerly used to him for surrendering them vpp into o<sup>r</sup> handes; and it is thought fit that these counsells be imparted to o<sup>r</sup> friends at Quinnip[iocke the New Haven Colony] that provition [provision] may be made for the safety of the new plantations, and vppon their joynt consent pceede or desist.<sup>1</sup> The 100 lb. rate was layd vpon the several towns in this prportion: Hartford, £43 1-00-00. Windsor, £28 1-00-00. Wethersfield, £28-13-4."

The three towns, fully alive to the danger and the duty which confronted them, promptly met the requisitions thus made upon them. An expedition of ninety men was organized. But the New Haven Colony, fearful of being involved in a general war with the Indians, did not favor the proposed expedition to Mattabeseck, which was, therefore, abandoned.

The military energies of the Connecticut Colony were then directed towards the Pequots, who had, in defiance of the express terms of their contract with the whites, at the close of the first campaign, returned to their old haunts, rebuilt their wigwams, planted crops and fished, etc. Capt. Mason, with a force of forty soldiers and one hundred Indians under Uncas, was sent against them. The Pequots fled, leaving their old people at the mercy of the English, who did them no harm—and though Uncas and his Indians had a skirmish with them, no one was killed, and the few Pequots captured were released at the intercession of a Narragansett sachem. The Pequot camp was utterly destroyed and the English and their allies returned to the river settlements with a large cargo of corn, kettles, trays, mats, wampum, filling not only the English vessel, but fifty canoes, of which thirty were taken from the Indians.

<sup>1</sup> *Conn. Col. Rec.* 1, 31.



## CHAPTER II.

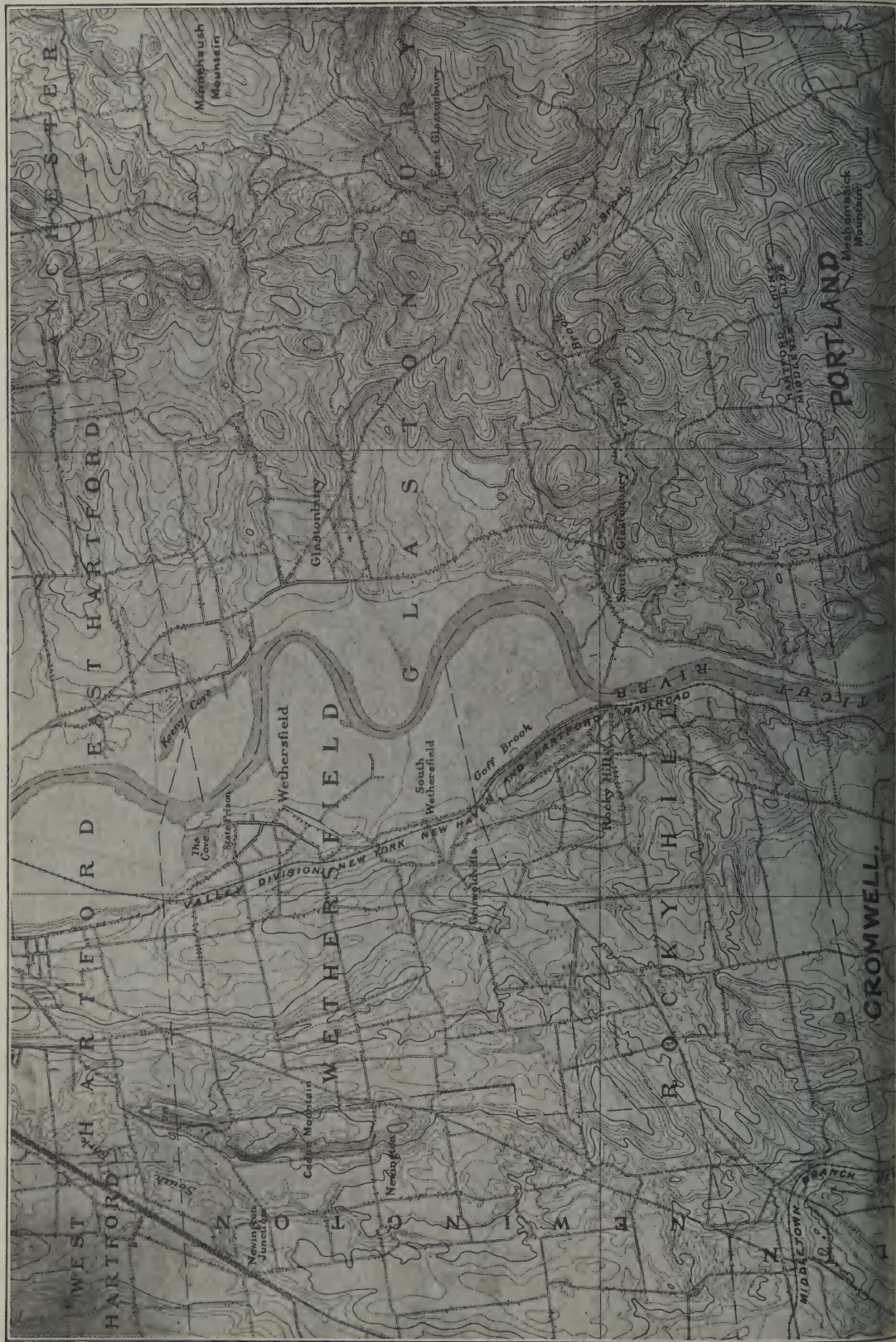
*Topographical View of Wethersfield, in 1640—Village Plot of Wethersfield, 1640—Home-Lots, and Earliest Divisions of Land—Commons and Highways—Boundaries and Patent of Town—Ship-Yards, Landing Places and Wharves—Ferries.*

[BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ.]

THE TOWNSHIP of Wethersfield, during the period of its greatest extent (from 1673 to 1693), included the whole of the present township of that name, the present townships of Glastonbury, Rocky Hill, and Newington, a section of about three square miles of territory now in the northeast corner of Berlin, and about four square miles now in the north end of Marlborough. Its area at that time was, in round numbers, eighty-four square miles, exclusive of that portion under the river—being something more than fourteen “large” miles long from east to west, and a little over six “large” miles broad from north to south. This great tract is to-day bounded northerly by West Hartford, Hartford, East Hartford and Manchester; easterly by Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough; southerly by Marlborough, Chatham, Portland, Cromwell and Berlin; westerly by Berlin and New Britain.

The original “plantation” of Wethersfield was not definitely fixed. It was that small section known to the Indians as Pyquaug (a name, as Dr. Trumbull tells us, compounded of *pauqui* and *auke*, and meaning “clear land,” or “open country.” It was the area now occupied by the village, together with the Great Meadow, and the Great and Little Plains. The “clear land” to which, probably, the place owed its aboriginal name was the two plains mentioned above, with the present site of the village; which, topographically speaking, is on an extension of the same plains. As thus limited, Pyquaug was bounded northerly mainly by a bend (now no longer existing at that point) in Connecticut River, separating it from Suckiaug (Hartford); easterly by the same river; southerly by Beaver (Goffe’s) Brook or lands in that vicinity, and westerly by the ridge along the summit of which the road on Wolcott Hill extends. It embraced a part of Hoccanum, which lay on both sides of the river. So it remained, a rudimentary hamlet, or “plantation,” until June 7, 1636, when the General Court, which had organized in April of that year, took the first step toward defining its limits, and making it a township.







TOPOGRAPHICAL VIEW OF WETHERSFIELD. Topographically considered, the Wethersfield of to-day presents much the same physical aspect as it did in 1640. Still a few material changes have occurred, especially in its water courses and alluvial meadows, which would probably astonish the early settlers themselves, could they be permitted to revisit the scenes of their early residence and labors. As there has never been a topographical survey of the township, the author will not undertake to give positive information on this subject, except in a general way, and upon a few points of which he has made a special study.

[We have endeavored, however, to supply this want by the accompanying copy of the U. S. Topographical Survey of that region of the state occupied by the Ancient Town of Wethersfield; a map published, we believe, since Judge Adams' death.—*H. R. S.*]

#### EXPLANATION NOTE ON THE

*Topographic Map of The Territory embraced within Ancient Wethersfield; reproduced from the Topographic Map (Middletown Division) of the U. S. Geologic Survey, of 1892: Scale 1:62,500 or very nearly one mile to one inch; i. e., one linear mile on the ground is represented by one linear inch on the map.*

This map represents three *groups* of physical features, viz.: (1) *water*, in all its forms, from lake, ponds, rivers, to brooks, swamps, etc.; (2) *relief*, including mountains, hills, valleys, cliffs, etc.; (3) *culture*, *i. e.*, the works of man, such as towns, cities, roads, railroads, boundaries. The peculiarly valuable and interesting feature which this map shows in connection with the purpose of this history, is the arrangement, by lines, by which the *contour* (*i. e.*, the elevations and depressions) of the country is shown. These contour lines, by which not only the *shapes* of the plains, hills and mountains are shown, but also the *elevations*—are irregular lines which pass through those points having the same altitude. If one follows a contour on the ground, one will go neither uphill nor downhill, but on a level. The line of the sea-coast itself is a contour line, the datum (or zero) of elevation being mean sea level. The contour line at, say 20 feet above sea level is the line that would be the sea-coast if the sea were to rise, or the land to sink 20 feet. Such a line runs back up the valleys and forward around the points of hills and spurs. On a gentle slope this contour line is far from the present coast line, while on a steep slope it is near it. Thus, a succession of these contour-lines far apart on a map indicates a gentle slope; and if they run together in one line, as if each contour were vertically under the one above it, they indicate a cliff. In many parts of the country are depressions or hollows, with no outlets. The contours, of course, surround these, just as they surround hills. Those small hollows known as “sinks” are usually indicated by short dashes, on the inside of the curve. Certain contours, usually, every fifth one, are accompanied by numbers stating elevation above sea level. (See on *Cedar Mountain*, for example.) Many other heights, instrumentally determined, are also given, the number in each case being placed in close proximity to the point to which it applies.

The *culture* indications, or works of man, are shown by certain conventional lines, shapes, etc.; thus, *county* lines by broken lines of different kinds and weights; *roads*, by fine double lines (full for the better roads, dotted for inferior ones); *railroads*, by full black lines, with cross lines; *country houses*, by small black squares, etc., etc.



CHANGES IN THE COURSE OF THE RIVER. It is known that, when the settlement of the township was begun, the Connecticut River (as shown upon the map) entered its northern border some forty to fifty yards east of the present main road between Hartford and Wethersfield; thence it flowed south until it reached the bank, or bluff, whereon the State Prison now stands; thence it curved quite sharply and flowed south until it reached the bank to the northeast, and on the south shore of this bend, known in Wethersfield records as "The Cove," were the public landings, adjacent to which were "The Commons." Continuing on a northeasterly course, the river re-crossed the north line at a point not far from two hundred yards east of the main road in question. This reach in the river is sometimes called "The Harbor." A few rods north of the jurisdiction line, the river made another turn, until, for the third time, it crossed the town line, flowing nearly south. The land formed by this turn was sometimes called "The Gulf;" this crossing was not far from a mile and a half east of the said main road. It will thus be seen that the curves of the river as it crossed and re-crossed the north jurisdiction line of the town, resembled a compressed letter "S," or, as the Indians termed it, *Hoccanum*—"a hook"—a name which applied to the meadows at this point, on both sides of the river. Thence the river flowed nearly due south, something more than a mile, probably, when the stream divided very nearly equally, forming the large island, called by the Indians *Mannhannock*, of about two hundred acres, with a navigable channel on either side of it.<sup>1</sup> (See also *Ap-*

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Chapin (*Hist. Glastonbury*, p. 178) gives the following note as to the meaning of this name: "*Manhannock*" may, possibly, be from *Munnannock*, "the moon," from the shape of the Island, at some period: but it is more likely to have the signification of "the great laughing place." Besides the word *Mis*, which also becomes *Missi*, *Misham*, and *Minni*, the Indians also had *Maum*, which in composition becomes *Maun*, *Maus* and *Naun*, also signifying "great," as *Mauseek*, "a great basket." (R. W. 93, 99, 100, etc.) *Ahauna*, "to laugh," "he is merry" (R. W., 145) and *uck*, place of, locality. Hence *Maun-haun-nock*, "a place of great merry making."

Of these (as we learn from Roger Williams, pp. 146, 147) there were two principal kinds: first, *Put-tuck-qua-quonck*, or "arbor-playing." The arbor or play-house "is made of long poles set in the earth, four square, 16 or 20 feet high, on which they hang great store of their stringed money, having great staking, town against town, and two chosen out of the rest, by course, to play the game at this kind of dice in the midst of all their abettors, with great shouting and solemnity: besides they have great meetings of foot-ball-playing, early in summer, town against town, upon some broad sandy shore, free from stones, or upon some soft heathier plot, because of their naked feet, at which they have great stakings, but seldom quarrel."

Their chiefest idol of all sports and games, is (if their land be at peace) toward harvest, when they set up *Qun-ne-ka-muck*, which signifies *Long-House*, sometimes a hundred, sometimes 200 feet long, upon a plain near the Court, (which

*pendix* III). Thus it passed Naubuck, received the contributions of Roaring Brook (the latter fed by Sturgeon Brook) and passed Nayaug (South Glastonbury) on its left and Rocky Hill on its right, substantially as at present, but a few rods more to the west, in the bend above Rocky Hill Ferry, than now. What caused these marked changes which have been wrought in the River's course since Wethersfield's first settlement, it is not easy to say. But, we can understand that, at the turn mentioned as being in the vicinity of the State Prison ("the Cove"), the stream encountered the bed of red sandstone shale underlying the meadow soil there, and now known as "The Rocks,"<sup>2</sup> an obstruction sufficiently potent to hinder it from cutting across southeasterly. The other bends have simply "worked down stream," as is the rule in soft alluvium. But, whatever the ulterior cause, the fact remains that *The Cove*, in Wethersfield, occupies one portion of the old river bed; *Keney's Cove*, on the Glastonbury side, occupies another portion of the same bed. *Pewter Pot Brook* flows now into Keney's Cove, and not, as formerly into the

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they call *Kit-Teic-Kau-ick*), where many thousands, men and women, meet—where he that goes in dances in sight of all the rest, and is prepared with money, coats, small breeches, knives, or what he is able to reach to, and gives these away to the poor."

Whoever compares the situation of the land on Manhannock with that on the adjoining shore at Pyquaug will perceive that there is no place in this region of country so well adapted to these Indian games. The concurrence of this fact, with the significance of the names, and proximity of the sachem's court in Pyquaug renders the conclusion that Pyquaug and Manhannock were places of merry making highly probable.

2 THE ROCKS OR THE GREAT ROCK.—This ledge of red sandstone, or shale, was not visible at the first settlement of the town: the meadow then extending out over and beyond it. At what date it became exposed to view, by the removal of the superincumbent soil, due to the action of the river, is not determinable. That it was as early as 1696, appears from a town vote passed that year, authorizing Samuel Buck to "run his fence from the edge of the Bank to the Great Rock, during the town's pleasure and no longer: not prohibiting any one from getting stone within the space of land aforesaid." Buck had derived his title to land in the vicinity (at the extreme North end of High St.) from his father, Henry Buck. This rock has contributed much to the science of Ichnography: fossil footprints in abundance having been found there by President Edward and Prof. Charles H. Hitchcock of Amherst college. We may add, however, as an illustration of the effect of the changes in the course of the river, and also as indicating approximately, the date thereof—that so late as 1691, the Town continued to grant lands by the *side of the river*, for public camping places—which to day are on the south and east side of Wethersfield cove; that is, from back of the present site of the State prison to the point, or fishing place, in the rear of Mr. John Hanmer's residence. Of course, all these "landing-places" were, very many years ago, abandoned as such; and new ones were established on the new river, so to speak—east of the village. The last grant at the old place was in 1691, "near Mr. [Steph.] Chester's warehouse."

river. *The Island* has disappeared. *Sturgeon Brook* now flows directly into the river, and not into *Roaring Brook*, as of old; and an island of about nine acres in extent, at *Pennywise*,<sup>1</sup> crossed by the north jurisdiction line of the town, and once known as *Long* (or from its successive owners) as "Cole's" and "Standish's") *Island*, is now only to be identified as a long narrow knoll in Hartford's South Meadow.

The principal watercourse west of the river was that known as "Piper's River," being the south branch of Hartford's present Park River, whose watershed includes a considerable part of the City of New Britain. "Goffe's"<sup>2</sup> (otherwise known as Beaver or Mill) Brook" was mainly a surface-water stream, having its principal source in Dem-

<sup>1</sup> PENNYWISE ISLAND.—In 1639, James Cole of Hartford, owned the Northern part of this Island (*Hartford Rec.*, Vol. I., p. 257) while Nathaniel Foote, of Wethersfield had owned the southern part from 1636, or earlier, and sold it to Lient. John Hollister of Wethersfield in 1645 (*Wethersfield Land Rec.* Vol. I., p. 93). From him it passed, by sale, to James Cole—thus the owner of the whole island—and he in 1654, sold the southern part to Thomas Standish of Wethersfield. (*Hartford Rec.*, Vol. I., p. 513.) About 1684, the island having then become a part of the main land, legal controversy began between Cole and Standish. The Hon. William Pitkin, attorney for the latter, claimed for his client all the land by adverse possession for more than twenty years, according to English Statutes, but the General Court, reversing a decision of the Court of Assistants, held that these Statutes had no force in Connecticut. (*Conn. Col. Rec.*, III., 165.)

*Pennywise* was the tract bounded N. by Hartford: E. by Conn. river (now the Cove), and, at its South end by John Plum's land, Southerly by the present Fort St. in Wethersfield and W. by the Hartford Road. There were about twenty proprietors of this tract, whose lots were from one to six acres in extent—averaging three or four each.

In 1691, Wethersfield Town was party to a suit concerning Pennywise Island, and in 1693-4, the Town conveyed its interest in it to Nathaniel Foote, Jr. In 1713, when the line between Wethersfield and Hartford was re-established, four stones were placed to mark the line as it crossed "Standish Island," as it was then called, (*Wethersfield Town Votes*, Vol.— p. 220, 228, 310), the phraseology of the records clearly showing that the name "Island" still attached to the land formed by accretion around what had once been such, long after it had ceased to exist: also, that The Cove had, meanwhile, come into existence but that it extended considerably further north than at present.

<sup>2</sup> GOFFE'S BROOK.—This name was applied to a *part* only, of a watercourse which crosses the main road from Wethersfield to Rocky Hill, just below the present dividing line between the two towns. It was so named, as early as 1669, from the fact that Phillip Goffe owned land and lived adjacent to it, on the south side, and on the north corner of the main road above named and the road into the Rocky Hill meadow. That part of the mill-stream, in Wethersfield, which flows through Beaver Meadow, is called *Beaver Brook*. *Goffe's Brook* is the name given to another section, just above the foregoing: next above the part designated as Goffe's is a section called *Sucker Brook*: above that a section known as *Two Stone Brook* (in Griswoldville), and still another section *Hang-Dog Brook*, which connects the valley with the reservoir in what was formerly Deming's Meadow.

BEAVER MEADOW.—In the early years of the town this name was given to the

ing's Meadow. Tributary to these are "Collier" Brook,<sup>1</sup> whose watershed is mostly Hog Meadow; a stream (name unknown to the writer) which joins Goffe's Brook from the south, a few rods west of Goffe's Bridge, and Tando's Brook,<sup>2</sup> formerly known as Beaver, and later as "Wadham's Brook." The latter has much less volume now than formerly, when what is now known as "Folly" flowed through it.

This "Folly" or "The Folly,"<sup>3</sup> as it is generally called, and which crosses the main road between Hartford and Wethersfield, is a cut-off, formed in 1726, by which the "Great Swamp"—a great basin which

tract lying between the Causeway on the north, and the road from Rocky Hill meadow-gate to the River Tier on the south; the river east, and Fearful Swamp west. The meadow to the north of it was called The Great Meadow, and that to the south, Mile Meadow. The stream now known as Tando's brook, was at first called Beaver's brook, then Wadham's brook. Mile Meadow was *occasionally* called Beaver Meadow. This was the case in a town vote of Jan'y., 1650. The name Beaver Meadow is found as early as 1640.

<sup>1</sup> COLLIER BROOK SWAMP AND COLLIER ROAD.—This swamp is first mentioned in a Town-vote passed, Dec. 24, 1705, when Ezekiel Buck, was chosen to survey the highway to the Saw-mill Farms (Newington). The road (now the Churchill road to Newington) which crossed it, was soon thereafter known as "the Collier Road." It had previously been called "the Saw-mill Path." It is supposed to have taken its name from the fact that at one time much charcoal was made in the woods of that region. A stream flowing through it is still known as Collier Brook.

<sup>2</sup> TANDO'S BROOK, prior to 1726, when it was largely diverted by the turning of its upper section into The Cove, at The Folly, was a much larger stream than at present. The whole watercourse was, at first, called Beaver Brook: the section flowing through "Egypt" was called Waddam's Brook, from John Waddams (Waddams) who, in 1669 and later, obtained lands on both sides of the stream and lived on the corner where the house lately occupied by Caroline Larkins (the old Robbins House) now stands, a little northwest of the present Larkins' Bridge. The Tandos, or Tantos, some of whom are now remembered as residents of Wethersfield were of mixed Indian and Negro blood. One of the Wethersfield or Newington Tandos was in Capt. Eliphalet Whittlesey's company in the French and Indian campaign of 1758, his name appearing in the muster roll simply as "Dando." Some of the Tandos lived within the recollection of persons now living, near Tando's Bridge on the north side of the road leading from the south end of Main St. to West, or Wolcott Hill. It is supposed that this habitation gave the name to Tando's Brook.

<sup>3</sup> [This name "Folly" has generally been supposed to be a sarcastic sinuation on the part of the early inhabitants, that the "cut-off" had not proved to be the benefit it was intended to be. I find, however, among Judge Adam's papers, a suggestion from one of his correspondents, that it may be "of Dutch origin, somewhat modified in its spelling, meaning a *swampy swale*."] "

The suggestion is not an improbable one. There were several Spanish words which came into use in the New Eng. vocabulary very early—before 1700—perhaps, before 1650; and it is quite likely that some may have been brought from the Low Countries; or from more immediate contact with their neighbors of New Netherlands. —H. R. S.]



extended from above the present Park Street in Hartford on the north to the Collier Road (north of Griswoldville) in Wethersfield, on the south—was furnished with a sufficient outlet into “The Cove.” One effect of opening this short cut was to render the ancient Beaver or Tando’s Brook, little more than a sluggish ditch; another was to necessitate the construction of the substantial structure now known as the “Folly Bridge,” a title, which in view of the reclamation of so much valuable land to purposes of useful culture, seems to be little less than ungrateful. The value of such a cut-off, as a great drainer of lands, certainly far exceeds the additional cost of bridges on its account.<sup>1</sup>

The Mattbeesick traversed the southwest corner of the old township and turned the mills at Beckley Quarter; but this portion of that stream, with its fertile meadows, is now in Berlin. The list of water-courses on the west side of the river closes with “Hog Brook,”<sup>2</sup> a few rods below Rocky Hill Landing, and Dividend Brook, which drove Rev. Gershom Bulkley’s “Corne Mill,” the last named stream entering the river a few rods north of the boundary line between Rocky Hill and Cromwell.

Of the changes wrought in the meadows of Wethersfield (Hoccanum and Glastonbury, or Naubuc included) it would be out of place to give a detailed account. But some idea of their extent may be gained from the fact that the jurisdiction line, established in 1770, between Wethersfield and Hartford, and which continued to be the line until changes made by the Legislature, in 1874, was intended to represent the ancient course of the river at the time of separation of Glastonbury from Wethersfield, in 1690, at which time the river was made the boundary line. By consulting the map, it will be apparent that the mouth of

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to the turning of this stream across the highway, it was a common occurrence, in the spring of the year, for a body of water to be formed, extending from the vicinity of the present hospital in Hartford, on the north, to near the Churchill road (Griswoldville) on the south. It covered the whole region known as the Great Swamp in the early records of Wethersfield and Hartford. The water was so deep on the lowest part of the road running westerly from the present Buck’s Corner, near The Cove, as not to be fordable: and a ferryboat was actually kept there for the transportation of passengers, at that point. Hence arose the name of *Jordan Lane*, a name which the road bears to the present day. Gen. Leonard P. Welles, aged 80, in 1882, told me that he had heard this tradition from his grandfather, who said it came to him from his ancestors, who from the time of Gov. Thomas Welles, lived in the immediate vicinity.—S. W. A.

<sup>2</sup> HOG BROOK, first mentioned in 1661, when Thomas Williams was given 12 acres of land adjoining it on the north. It flows into the river about an eighth of a mile below the landing at Rocky Hill.—See Map of The Landing, in Rocky Hill Chapter.

Pewter Pot Brook, which in 1636 formed a junction with the east shore of Connecticut River, is now very near a mile to the eastward of that shore, and now empties into Keney's Cove (or "The Gulf") a body of water which has been wholly formed since that date. Opposite to that point, therefore, the Great River is a mile west of where it was at the settlement of the town.

Further down the river, upon its east side, Sturgeon Brook (called *Salmon Brook*<sup>1</sup> by Dr. Chapin), which in part, formed the northern boundary of Nayaug, flowed into Roaring Brook (called Sturgeon River by Dr. Chapin) until a comparatively recent date. But by the wearing of the river to the eastward at this point, Sturgeon Brook is made to flow into the Connecticut River, at a point considerably to the northward of the mouth of Roaring Brook.

On the west side of the river, several acres of land have formed, by accretion, a little above the Ferry and Landing Place at Rocky Hill.

As to mountains, hills, or ridges of high land in Wethersfield no exact measurements are known to have been taken. In the old township the highest points were on the east side of the river. On the west side, the supremacy rests between the summit in the rear of Sherman's Hotel (Rocky Hill) and Cedar Hill, or Mountain,<sup>2</sup> as it is sometimes called. Both these eminences are of trap rock, and probably neither is over three hundred feet high. The ridge which includes Cedar Hill is close to the dividing line between Wethersfield and Newington. About a mile and a half east of this is a lower ridge of trap-rock, known as the Nott's Hill Ridge. This is a continuation, southerly, of the ridge at Hartford's Rocky Hill, whence that City obtains its supply of stone for macadamizing its streets. The western slope of this is, like that of Cedar Hill, precipitous and strewn with loose fragments of the stone of which it is composed. This ridge offers an instance of rock of an igneous origin overlying stratified rock of a more recent formation.

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<sup>1</sup> SALMON BROOK.—This stream was formerly the northern or main branch of the stream separating Naubuc from Nayaug. It united with Sturgeon river (now Roaring brook) in the Glastonbury Great Meadow. But the encroachment of Conn. River eastward, at this point, has had the effect to *cut off* all that part below the point of union of the two branches; so that they enter the river by separate mouths, with no present indication of there having formerly been but one mouth for both. The origin of the name is obvious.

<sup>2</sup> CEDAR MOUNTAIN.—This elevation of land, the highest within the present town limits, was so called in the records as early as 1687; perhaps earlier. When the 1200-acre Common was laid out, in 1687, it was provided that it should extend from the end of the Long Lots, on the east, "to the edge of Cedar Mountains," on the west.

THE VILLAGE PLOT OF WETHERSFIELD.—Can be best understood by a reference to the map, which, while not drawn to a scale, will still convey a pretty good idea of the locations of the homesteads of the first settlers. It will be observed that, in a general way, it was bounded northerly by the Connecticut River (now The Cove); easterly by the Great Meadow (at the north end) and Great and Little Plains—the Great Meadow being today very much reduced in breadth by the encroachments of the river; southerly by the Great Plain and the South Field, partly by each; westerly by the Great West Field (and, at the extreme north end) Pennywise. There was a Common and a Public Landing Place on the river, west and opposite to Meadow Row; these are now occupied by private individuals and constitute the southeast shore of the Cove; and a line of dwellings opposite to Meadow Row, now make that the upper part of High Street, sometimes, to this day, called “The Common.” All home lots on the east side of High Street (which now extends northerly from the site of the Baptist Church to The Cove) were bounded on the east by the Great Meadow, and in area they each contained from three to seven acres. The name “High Street” is as old as the town itself. Jonas Weed’s home lot, which was at the extreme north end of Meadow Row, was bounded northerly by a “way to The Harbor,” and another highway leading to the upper end of the Great Meadow, bounded his place, containing seven acres, on the south. Coming down High Street, on the east side, to the house of Josiah Churchill, a road ran easterly, thence into the Great Meadow. This road, to-day, leads to the Public Landings, not then existing, and, in fact, the place where they are is nearly a mile westward of where the river then was. Coming a few rods further down on the west side, a road, then called Fort Street (today called Prison or State Street) extended thence northwesterly to connect with Hartford Road. Where it so connects, it was bounded northerly by Pennywise; and the home lot of John Plumb (afterwards Gov. Welles’ lot), containing eighteen acres and now occupied by the State Prison, was bounded on the west by Pennywise. The location of the fort, which gave to this its name, will be discussed elsewhere. The road now known as Nott’s Lane, running westerly from Prison Street, did not exist until 1679.

Continuing our course down High Street, until we come to the home lot of Sgt. John Nott, on the east side, we find another road, also then known as Hartford Road, now Sandy Lane, running nearly northwest until it was intersected by Fort Street. Only one side (the northeast) of this road was then settled upon. There are indications that, at

open space, forming part of the "Green" or "Common," so often mentioned in the earliest deeds, and that upon this part of ancient Green the Baptist Church and some private dwellings now stand. .

The road running easterly from High Street, into the Meadow or down to the present "Laboratory," now known as "Chemical Lane," did not then exist. Coming down High Street, where it connects with the Main Street of to-day, we enter upon the Green and Common, we have just mentioned. From this Green debouched High Street, northerly, Hartford Road northwesterly, Short Street southeasterly and what we to-day call Main Street, southerly. This Green was several times larger than it is today. Only a remnant now remains. It embraced not only the open space in which (until the present century) the town pump stood, and where, more recently the flag staff was set, but it also included the sites of the house of Levi Goodwin, deceased; the Deming house next north, the old Gershom Nott (now Shepardson) house southeast, and the Latimer (now Martin Griswold) house; besides the area of one (the west) third of the present burying ground in length. Building lots have been taken from it in all directions. One of these John Thompson's, forms the angle in the junction of Main and Marsh Avenue, the latter being the street connecting the Green with the upper end of Broad Street. On the northeast side of Short Street, the land now occupied by Martin Griswold, Esq., was once a part of this square. The first Meeting House was near its centre, and the Rev. Henry Smith's home lot of five acres, on High Street, was bounded southerly in part by the Green, and partly by the Burying-Ground, then a small enclosure of twenty-seven rods in length. To-day, the Meeting House is within the angle formed by the junction of Short and High Streets, and the *name* Short Street has long been out of use. It is probable that Hartford Road, as originally laid out, entered Main Street, so as to form a straight line with Short Street. Continuing down Main Street, which practically is a continuation of High, it is worthy of note that, with the exception of Sgt. Nott's and Thomas Ufford's, there were no dwellings in this street prior to 1641. In fact, this street, now apparently the oldest in the village, did not exist *as such*, until about 1645. We refer to that part of it running northerly from Fletcher's Lane (where May's Hotel lately was) to the Meeting House. Prior to about 1645, there was a *passage* through, known as Rose Lane (named, probably, from Robert Rose), but at about the date indicated (possibly as early as 1642, by which time several dwellings had been erected on the *west* side) it was christened "New Street," sometimes "Rose Lane." The east side of Rose Lane, or New Street, formed the rear of the home lots



on the west side of Broad, and there were no dwellings on that side, for more than a generation at least.

Our course down Main Street to where May's Hotel lately was kept, brings us to a street, crossing it at right angles. That part running thence northwesterly, known today as Back Lane, was in 1640, and for many years thereafter called "Watering Lane." This, at least so late as 1642, seems to have terminated at the angle where its course becomes northerly, in the "wilderness," or "lands undivided." At that point its extension northerly to Hartford Road was effected about 1642; and, thereafter, like Rose Lane, it was called New Street; but, unlike the latter, it was also designated as "the New Road to Hartford," the name Watering Lane still retaining its hold upon the old part of the road, until Back Lane came to be used for the whole. There was, also, a lane or "way" connecting Watering Lane, in the angle we have mentioned, with the Sandy Lane of to-day, and forming the rear of divers home lots until 1660, when it was closed by vote of the town. There are indications that another "way," leading into "The Wilderness" westerly, from the angle in Watering Lane, has been discontinued in the same manner.

Opposite to Watering Lane was another, Fletcher's Lane, taking its name from John Fletcher, and connecting Main and Broad Streets. Below Fletcher's Lane, Main Street was then called Bell Lane, probably from Francis Bell, from whom, perhaps, Richard Law bought his lot on the corner. Bell Lane was continued until it turned westerly, when it became "the road to the West Swamp;" now the road to Wolcott or West Hill. The "path to the Mill," now "Mud Lane," was continued southerly from Bell Lane to the Mill or Mill Brook, in the south end of the town.

Returning to the upper end of Broad Street, we find that Short Street terminates in a junction with another road to the Great Meadow and to the ferry afterwards established to Naubuc. On the east side of Broad Street, at its upper end, a piece of land has been taken from the street, on which two houses now stand, one occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Savage. Coming down on the east side of Broad Street, we find a road running southeasterly through the Great and Little Plains to Beaver Meadow and Fearful Swamp. At the extreme south end of Broad Street, a short passage was called Carpenter's Lane. Except in this way the name Carpenter does not occur on the records of this date. Another short road running southwestwardly from the south end of Broad, connected with the "Path to the Mill," before mentioned. The "Way to Mattabeseck" existed until 1669-70, when it was laid out

by town vote. Nor, at that time, was there any road to Rocky Hill. The name Broad is as old as the settlement.

TITLES TO LANDS—ALLOTMENTS OF HOME LOTS—DIVISIONS OF LANDS. We have already observed that Wethersfield, as a body of proprietors, and, later, as a *body politic*, obtained its title to the territory within its limits by grant from the Indians, in 1636, 1670 and 1673; and from the Governor and Secretary, acting for the Colony by Patent, in 1685; the latter being in the nature of a deed of confirmation. In each case the grant had been made, not to the town, as at present constituted (i. e., "all the inhabitants," within certain prescribed limits), but to certain persons by name, being proprietors of lands therein, and to the "rest" of the proprietors, with their heirs, successors and assigns, the governing idea being that such proprietors *only* were members of the body politic.

Originally *individual* proprietors became such by virtue of *occupation*, as was the case with the few who held the *first* "adventurers' lands" in the Great Plain, before any township organization had been formed. Then, an organization having been formed and become possessed of the Indian title, in 1636, this organization—at first composed of the original "adventurers"—made special grants, by votes, in proprietors' meeting, to such as they chose to take into their fellowship. In this way many grants had been made prior to 1637 or '38, when, so far as appears, a *general setting out of territory in severally*, was then made for the first time. Let us go back and retrace, as best we can, the successive steps by which the original territory of the town was distributed among its inhabitants, from time to time.

I. *The Green*. The site of which we have already described in our preceding remarks upon the village plot, was probably the first lay-out of the new territory made by the settlers of Pyquaug.

II. Around this, as a natural *nucleus* of settlement, were laid out in 1635-6, the *home lots* of the first settlers—parcels of land, of generally two or three acres each, granted by the town to individuals belonging to the body of proprietors—spaces being reserved, here and there, for highways or thoroughfares. In this way lots were assigned on both sides of Broad and High Streets (on the latter as far north as the Common); the west side of Main Street (then called Rose Lane); the northeast side of Sandy Lane; the west side of Bell Lane; part of the north side of Fort Street, and Meadow Row, which adjoined the Common on the east. Broad Street, which is still very wide, has been made much

narrower, especially at its north end, where several home lots have since been sold by the town.

III. The next step in this distribution probably, was that of certain outlying *meadow lands*, in 1636 or earlier; of cleared lands, called *plains*; and lands on the Great Island, in 1637; and of four areas known as *fields*, and of *swamps*, etc., in 1638. (See *Appendix V.*) Prior to this latter date, also, much of the land of Pennywise (1637-8), and in the village (on Broad, High and Fort Streets, and Bell and Fletcher Lanes) had been granted in home lots.

As to the *Fields*, or larger sections, they were usually granted, not as home lots, but as outlying woodlands, or for farming and grazing, appurtenant to homesteads. Lands in the Great Meadow and Swamp were made the basis of grants of uplands; the proportion of upland to that in the meadow, being 4 to 1. This explains why the *Great West Field*, which was mostly upland, was sometimes called "the four-fold division." When John Clarke, October 10, 1638, sold his Wethersfield lands to John Robbins, among which were ten acres in the Great Meadow, it was provided in the deed that the grantee should receive the "four-fold uplands" (whenever laid out), which belonged with the meadow. Accordingly, some years later, forty acres of upland were laid out to Robbins in the Great West Field. It is probable that this last mentioned Field, was mostly divided in 1639.

In these allotments, as described in *Appendix V*, *thirty-four men* seem to have shared; the acreage allowed to each individual being based, apparently, upon the means and social *status* of the donee; and proportioned very nearly to that of his homestead. In theory the allotments were made by the proprietors (land owners) of the township, by and among themselves. They were like the shareholders of a joint-stock company, so far as the undivided lands were concerned. The General Court, April 10th, 1640 (*Col. Rec. I*), refers to an "Agreement," "betwixt the 34 men, and the Towne and Church in Wethersfield;" and the Court says "it is understood all the meadowing within the bounds of Wethersfield, on this [west] side the river, yet undiuided, with a portion of upland on this side and the other side the river" are included in the agreement. It, also, says that: "Said 34 men have an equal right, or proportion unto the residue of the upland undivided, with the church and the residue of the towne, ether in comon with them, or in any other kynd."

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<sup>1</sup> Under this "agreement" (whatever its full scope may have been) between the "34 men of the one part, and the church and town on the other part," each party

*Meadows.*—This term is applied to such of the alluvial, or periodicaly flooded lands along the River, as are cleared and in suitable condition for mowing or plowing. When the whole is enclosed, as a common

seems to have had the right to issue grants of land to individuals. I find, among Judge Adams' papers, the following lists, (possibly more or less incomplete), in which he had endeavored to sift out the source from which the early settlers of Wethersfield derived their respective grants:

LANDS GIVEN BY THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD TO SUNDRY PARTIES AS APPEARS BY  
VOL. I., OF THE LAND RECORDS:

Date.	Name of Donee.	No. of Acres.	Page of Vol.	Remarks.
No Date.	Sam. Boardman	30	24	At Rocky Hill.
Oct. 20, 1656	John Waddams	3	25	} Near the center.
July 14, 1660	John Waddams	3	25	
Oct. 22, 1655	Henry Palmer	6	26	In the "Dry Swamp."
Oct. 22, 1655	Henry Palmer	10	26	In the "West Field."
Nov. 27, 1654	Enoch Buck	2	28	Near the center.
Feb. 15, 1655	Leonard Dix	3	29	Near the center.
June 10, 1660	Leonard Dix	3	29	In Beaver Meadow.
Dec. 21, 1659	Sam. Belden	5	42	In Dry Swamp.
June 10, 1660	Michael Griswold	3	46	In Beaver Meadow.
Oct. 27, 1677	Michael Griswold	52	46	37th Lot; adjoining Farmington.
Nov. 10, 1659	Hugh Welles	4	56	In Dry Swamp.
No Date. (1647?)	John Coltman	½	67	On Broad Street.
No Date. (1647?)	John Coltman	12	67	In Mile Meadow.
Mch. 1, 1647	William Smith	1	71	In the Center. } Given
Mch. 1, 1647	William Smith	5	71	In Mile Meadow. } by ch.
Nov. 17, 1655	Samuel Hale	1½	97	In the Center of Town. } & Twn.
June 10, 1660	John Riley	3	107	In Beaver Meadow.
1641"				
"9th mo., 28 day	Richard Treat, Senior	Farm.	120	At "Noyake" (Noyaug.)
Jany. 7, 1659	Benjamin Crane	5½	136	1 Piece Meadow; 1 Home Lot.
May 14, 1660	John Russell, Jr.	8	147	3 Acr. Home Lot. 1 Ac. Mead.
June 10, 1660	John Dickinson	3	173	Beaver Meadow.
Mch. 11, 1652	Richard Montague	—	178	Taken from the Street.
	Richard Montague	30 rds.	178	At North Meadow Gate.
Apr. 15, 1695	John Robbins' heirs			
4th month 1641				
25th day	Leonard Chester		209	The No. pieces, and acre
			not given, but	probably many acres.
Feb. 7, 1641	Richard Bayldon [Belden?]		214	Amount not given.
Feb. 24, 1641	Richard Denton	15	215	In the "South Field."
Feb. 24, 1641	John Northend	2¼	216	A "House-lot."
		8	147	3 Acre Home Lot; 1 Ac. mead.



field, the swampy and wooded parts of the alluvial tract are enclosed with the meadows.

The earliest management of the meadows for the purpose of regulating the common fence separating them from the upland, or the upper meadow from the lower one, etc., as well as establishing the gates, fixing

LANDS GIVEN "BY THE CHURCH" IN WETHERSFIELD, TO SUNDRY PARTIES; AS APPEARS  
BY VOL. I., OF LAND RECORDS:

Date of Entry.	Name of Donee.	No. of Page		Remarks.
		Acres	of Vol.	
Oct. 25, 1649	Richard Smith.	3	57	In the center of Town.
Oct. 25, 1649	Richard Smith	2	57	In Great Meadow.
Oct. 25, 1649	Richard Smith	4	57	In "Mile Meadow."
No Date.	John Elsen	—	70	Near the center.
Mch. 1, 1647	William Smith	1	71	} Given by "Church & Town." In the center.
Mch. 1, 1647	William Smith	5	71	
Jany. 5, 1647?	Samuel Hale	2	96	} Given by "Church & Town." In Mile Meadow.
Jany. 5, 1647?	Samuel Hale	4	96	
— 5 1650	Thomas Curtis	¼	175	In the center.
				In Great Meadow.
				Building Lot.

GRANTED BY CHURCH AND TOWN:

John Nott, 1670.	William Morris, 1676.
John Curtis, upon Common, at River side, 1670-1.	Ezekiel Buck, 1676, W. Side Rocky Hill.
Sam. Boardman, 1670-1.	John North, 1677.
John Chester, for addition to his Mill Lot, 1671-2.	Wm. Clark, 1677.
Joseph Edwards, 20 acres at Rocky Hill, S. side Enoch Buck. (p. 127).	Robert Flood, 1677, at Rocky Hill.
Sam. Boardman, Jr., 10 Ac. next Joseph Edwards.	Thos. Wickham, 1677.
John Welles, 10 Ac. next S. of Boardman.	Job Whitecomb, 1679.
Thos. Williams, 10 Ac. Rocky Hill.	Capt. John Chester, 1680, 3 score acres south of his lot in West Field.
Nath. Graves, 1672.	Joseph Butler, 40 ac. E. of River, next Middletown line.
Joseph Smith, Rocky Hill, 20 Acres additional, 1672.	Ebenezer Deming, 50 Ac. 1685, exchanged for land taken for highway.
Andrew Pinson (Pynchon) granted lands, 1672.	Mr. Woodbridge, 200 Acres, 1685.
John Slead (Slade?) 1676, at Rocky Hill.	Jonathan Riley, Jr., Jonathan Deming, 1685.
	Mr. David Buttolph.
	Ens. John Wyatt.

This "agreement" is also most interesting, not only as showing the relations existing between these three parties in the settlement of Wethersfield; but important as proving that at this very early date, when there was probably no white settlers upon the east side of the Great River below Springfield, these Wethersfield settlers were already taking measures to provide for the distribution in severalty, of the Town's landed premises upon that side of the river. This forms the subject of a very exhaustive and valuable paper on the *Original Distribution of the Three Mile Lots on the East side of the River*, which will be found in APPENDIX VI.





*Photos by J. B. Standish.*

**"THE GREAT MEADOW"**  
WETHERSFIELD, CONN.



THE ABOVE VIEWS REPRESENT,

One of the "Great Meadows" enclosed within each turn of the Connecticut River, coursing through the basin of the Connecticut Valley. Being a level deposit of sand. (It is claimed to have been the bed of a lake at some previous period) And is overflowed annually by the Spring-flood, to the depth of five to eight feet. The average rise above low-water, being about twenty-three feet.

the term for opening and closing them for depasturing, was by the town, in town meeting, and by its selectmen. The General Court, in February, 1643-4, had passed a law providing for the care of *common lands* by the townsmen (selectmen) of the several towns; and this seems to have been construed to include common *fields* (when the several proprietors have their respective tract separately defined, by metes and bounds), which are an entirely different matter. It was not till 1687, when Gov. Andros' Council legislated on the subject, that common fields were regulated by law. It was then provided that a majority of *the owners* in such a field should have the power to regulate the fencing and depasturing them. The care of common and undivided lands was still left with the towns.

Notwithstanding the absence of any legal authority on the part of the town to regulate the Great Meadow, it continued to do so, probably to the satisfaction of parties concerned, for many years. The first *recorded* meeting of "Proprietors of the Great Meadow and Plain," was October 16th, 1691. And it is probable that ever since that date, or perhaps a little earlier—the town has ceased to pass by-laws governing its use and improvement. For nearly 200 years past the "proprietors" have chosen their own officials, and regulated the opening and closing of the meadows, substantially as at present. Some of the doings of the proprietors are recorded among the town notes; especially in Vol. II thereof. Apportionments of fences are sometimes recorded in the records of lands.

The *Meadows*, the *Plains*, the four "*Fields*" and the *Island* referred to as constituting the land thus divided among the Wethersfield people between 1636 and '39—together with the smaller meadows, swamps, etc., similarly divided, may be thus briefly described.

*The Great Meadow.* This name, which is about as ancient as the town itself, embraced all that tract of alluvial soil, north of what is now the "Causeway," and east of the "Great and Little Plains" and the village, as far north as the great bend in the river as it lays to the north and east of the present "Rocks," east of what is now "The Cove." Its original area, of over 3,500 acres, comprised much land that is now in Hockanum; and a few acres at the northermost point in the bend, were north of the dividing bound between Wethersfield and Hartford for some years, or, until the bend had "worked down stream." The river has so far changed its place with reference to this tract, that the Great Meadow of today, is hardly more than half as large as it was at the first settlement of the town. This, with the "Plain" lands, is probably the *cleared lands*, which gave to this vicinity its Indian



name—*Pyquaug*. The last of the lands in this Great Meadow were taken up in 1681, pursuant to a vote of the town.

At the east end of the Causeway there was a "landing place" (but, probably, no permanent structure), which must have connected with the highway across Nathaniel Foote's lot, on the east side of the river. The discovery, from the Land Records of 1640, that there was such a landing place, was—to the writer, at least—quite an unexpected one. Between the Causeway on the south and the river on the north, were three other roads traversing this meadow from east to west. The road next north of the Causeway was that on which the *first ferry* (Richard Smith's) was afterwards established, from the upper end of Broad Street; but little of this road now remains west of the river. Next north of this a road ran east from High Street, of which a fragment remains to this day, and on that are the present town wharves. The next road, north, was at the extreme north end, cutting off the bend of the river at that point; it was, long ago, washed out and carried away forever.

*Beaver Meadow*, was bounded northerly by the Great Meadow and "Wet Swamp," partly by each—the Causeway lying between; easterly, by Connecticut River; westerly by "Fearful Swamp;" southerly by "Mile Meadow." The "Dry Swamp" was the name given to the western part of this meadow; and the names "East Field," "West Field," "Middle Field" and "Long Row" were given to sub-divisions of Dry Swamp. An east and west road crossed this meadow—and probably (?) two north and south roads. The Beaver (Wadham's, or Tando's) Brook traversed it also. The name Beaver Meadow is found on record as early as 1640.

*Mile Meadow* was bounded northerly by Beaver Meadow, an east and west road separating the two; easterly by Conn. River, which curved to the southwest, at the lower end of this tract; southerly by the River; westerly by Goffe's Brook, separating it from Rocky Hill. At its lower end it came to a point near where the Rocky Hill landing now is. The whole of this meadow and part of Beaver Meadow are in the present town of Rocky Hill. Mile Meadow is no longer known as such and Beaver Meadow has come to mean a part only of what is generally called Rocky Hill Meadow, in the vicinity of the junction of Beaver and Goffe's brooks.<sup>1</sup> Near the fork of these water-courses was the tract

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<sup>1</sup> *Mile Meadow*—the old name for present Lower, or Rocky Hill Meadow. March 25th, 1680, it was called by this name, when the Town chose a committee (Lieut. James Treat and Sergt. John Robbins) "to lay out that division of land." The

called "the Dams," so called from the works constructed there by the beavers.

*The Great Plain* was and is quite irregular in shape. It was bounded northeasterly by the Little Plain, northwesterly by Broad Street, southwesterly by a swamp separating it from the South Field, southeasterly by "Fearful Swamp;" and embraced much of the area of the "adventurers' lands" of the very earliest settlers.

*The Little Plain* was included in the angle formed by Broad Street, northwesterly, and the road separating it from the Great Plain, southwesterly, and Wet Swamp bounded it on the east. It retains its name and, substantially, its original physical features to this day.

*Furtherest West Field* (containing one tier of lots, ranging north and south) was bounded north by Hartford south line; east by Hartford Road; south by "Road to the Country" (Jordan's Lane); west by "lands not laid out"<sup>1</sup> (the ridge where the Wyllys Welles house is), and seventeen lots had been laid out here by 1640. In 1680, a town's committee reported these lots as 96 rods long—probably they would be called to-day 100 rods in length.

*Little West Field* embraced an area of about 166 acres, divided into 22 lots (sometimes called "the Short Lots") ranging N. and S., and reported by Town's Committee in 1680, as being 63 rods long. It was bounded N. by the "Road to the Country" (Jordan's Lane); E. by Hartford Road; S. by the "Great West Field," and W. by "lands not laid out."

*Great West Field*, the largest of the four "fields," contained one tier of lots, ranging E. and W. each being one and one-half miles long;<sup>2</sup> bd. N. by the Little West Field; East by the Road to Hartford, New St. (now Back Lane), the lots on Bell Lane and "the Path to the Mill," partly by each; S. by the South Field and Leonard Chester's

name *first* appears in March, 1647. A fourfold division of upland was made on account of it, in 1675. The same name was used in 1708, when a highway was laid out through its length. The laying out of lands in it was completed in December, 1682.

<sup>1</sup> In one Mss. Mr. Adams says "Westerly, by the 'Wilderness,' perhaps a mile and a half west of Hartford road."

<sup>2</sup> These  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile long lots were *one rod in breadth* which would make three acres to the lot. Those settlers, who had lots by special grant, or "Town-vote," usually took large tracts—thus, Matthew Mitchell had 135 acres. Those who took under the allotment received a number of acres equal to four times the area they owned in the Great Meadow. Beaver Brook (later called Tando's—see *note*, p. ) was the principal watercourse in this tract.

mill-lot,<sup>1</sup> and W. by "the Wilderness."<sup>2</sup> It contained 1600 acres, or more, (exclusive of the "Small Lots" on the N. side of the Road to "West Swamp") and was divided, in 1638 probably. There was, also, a tract reserved for the "Church and Town Lands," which would probably increase its total area to some 2000 acres. Its extreme Southern lot was that of Leonard Chester, where the gristmill is.

*The South Field* cannot be so definitely bounded; and up to 1640, but little of it had been laid out in severalty. Its bounds were N. partly by the Great Plain, partly by the Central, or the Village plot; E. by Fearful Swamp, or lower (or Beaver) Meadow; S. by the Wilderness of Rocky Hill, W. by the Wilderness.

It seems appropriate, in this connection, to give some account of the various Meadows, Swamps and Plains alluded to in the above descriptions of the Fields.

*Dry Swamp.* A part of what is now the Great Meadow was so called in a Town vote, of Feb. 1659-60, ordering the lands therein to be laid out in severalty.

The *Wet Swamp* lay between the Great Meadow and the Little Plain, and also extended as far north as the Burying Ground. In consequence of drainage and a gradual filling up from alluvial deposits, most of it has lost its swampy character, and it is now no longer known by its ancient name, being part of the Upper Meadow. The last of the lands in this swamp were "divided out" in 1670.

*West Swamp.* The swampy tract next west of what is now called West (or Wolcott) hill, was for many years called the West Swamp. In 1683, when the long highway on West hill was ordered laid out, this hill was called the "West Swamp hill."

*Fearful Swamp*—in more recent times sometimes erroneously called "Fairfield Swamp"—was bounded northerly by the Wet Swamp the Great Plain and the South Field, partly by each; easterly by Beaver Meadow; southerly, by the western and swampy part of Mile Meadow; westerly, by the South Field. Beaver Brook flowed in a southerly direction through it, and at its lower end, united with Goffe's Brook, when the latter continued southerly through Mile Meadow, until it emptied into the Conn. River, a short distance above the present Rocky Hill landing. Its present name is a matter of record as

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<sup>1</sup> In one Mss. Mr. Adams says "southerly, by 'Lands Ungiven' along Mill Brook."

<sup>2</sup> Or what would now be called the "New Road," on the Nott's Hill ridge, running from the place lately occupied by Wylls Welles, deceased.

early as January, 1686-7, as appears by a Town-vote, appointing a Committee to lay out a highway therein. In December, 1712, a highway was established through its length, defined as "running out of the lower end of the Plain, through the Wet Swamp \* \* \* to the highway leading over Beaver Brook, at Rocky Hill." This vote refers to a similar vote, passed in 1705, but not executed. This highway still exists, but is impassable most of the time and its existence is probably known but to few.

There were special *names attached to certain localities* in some of these larger divisions. MATTHEW MITCHELL, who owned large tracts in the Great Meadow, gave to one of these the name of "Send Home," in 1641, and to another, "Fill Barn"—probably because, in the first tract (of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  acres) he could cut enough hay to be *sent home* instead of being housed on the lot; and in the other case, a tract of  $23\frac{1}{2}$  acres, the yield of hay taken from it was put into a barn *upon the lot*. The name "River Tier," in Mile (now Rocky Hill) Meadow, explains itself; as does "Fishing Eel" in the same meadow; but the origin of the term "Five Nations," as applied to a fishing place on the Great River, at the extreme lower end of the meadow, is unknown and unapparent. The same may be said of other queer names, such as "Bucktown;" "Gooseberry;" "Twenty-rod Highway;" "Straddle Hill;" "Hard Scrabble;" "Skunk's Misery;" "Dingling Pond;" "Christian Hill;" "Siah's Hollow," etc., the origin of which is now quite beyond our ken.

IV. *Distribution of the Three-Mile Lots East of the Great River—1639.*—Next in this progressive general distribution of the Town's land, was that of 1639, by which the immense tract of territory on the east side of the Great River, bounded north by Hartford bounds; east by "the Wilderness"; south by Sturgeon (now called Roaring) Brook, at its junction with the River; and west by the River itself, which afterwards came to be known as *Naubuc Farms*, and more recently Glastonbury. This tract was laid out in lots which were *three miles in length*, running from the River east; and there were several crossing places to these farms, many years before any of them were actually settled. In 1640, a single highway traversed the tract across the length of Nathaniel Foote's lot on the north end of the new territory, about 670 rods south of Hartford bounds. These lots were apportioned among the "proprietors" on the west side of the River; but in this distribution no such ratio of distribution was observed as there had been in the apportionment of the Fields, etc., on the west side; but the process seems to have been completed at one operation. For certain men



(how many, is not known) were selected, who were called "Sizers," (or, as we should say "Assessors"), who were to determine the proportion of land which each proprietor should have, not only by the amount of meadow he possessed, but with reference to "the goodness, or badness" of the land, etc. We have this on the statement of George Hubbard, one of the "Sizers" of the 1639 distribution, as he testified in Court, in 1684. Who were his colleagues, doth not appear. It is obvious that the principle adopted in this lay-out did not permit of an *absolute* ratio, or proportion, of Hoccanum and Naubuc farmlands, to the meadow lands on which the distribution was predicated; and a uniform ratio was not, in fact, adopted. Thirty-four persons shared in this distribution of east-side land, usually spoken of as the "*Three-mile lots.*" *Appendix VI.*<sup>1</sup>

As these lots extended quite to the then east line of the township, there were no lands left to be granted out in that direction. There was, however, a surplus of "ungiven" land, at the south end of the tract,

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<sup>1</sup> We find among Judge Adams' papers the following list of those who did *not* share in 3-mile lots. It also indicates their possessions in the town *West* of the River—H. R. S.

John Oldham.	John Clarke.
John Evans, 48 ac. in Great West Field.	John Nott, 11 ac. in Little West Field.
Leslie Bradfield.	John Livermore.
Jonas Weede, 24 ac. in Furthest West W. Field.	Thos. Weeks, or Wicks.
Will Goodrich.	Tho. Wickham.
John Goodrich.	John Jessup, 49 ac. in Furthest West Field.
Robert Abbott, 3 ac. 34 ac. in Furthest West Field.	Thomas Curtis, 20½ ac. in Little West Field.
Robert Bates, 6 ac.	Josiah Churchill, 12½ ac. in Little West Field.
John Betts.	Richard Crabbe, 20½ ac. in Little West Field.
Tho. Standish, 12½ ac. in Little West Field.	Richard Mills, or Miles, 12 ac. in Little W. Field.
John Brundish, 35¾ ac. in Furthest W. Field.	Will. Colefox.
Sam. Ireland (Wid. of) 20½ ac. in Little W. Field.	Thomas Whitway, 10½ ac. in Little W. Field.
Edward Mason (Wid. of) 15-1-20 ac. in West Field.	John Stoddard.
Robert Seeley.	Palmer.
Rich. Wescott, 10¼ ac. in Little West Field.	Jasper Rawlings.
Jacob Waterhouse, 5 ac. 20a. in Little West Field.	John Miller.
Samuel Hale.	William Cross.
John Hall.	Anthony Wright.
Nicholas Morecock.	Thomas Tinker.
	John Fletcher.

the same land of Tarramuggas, Sowheag's son and heir (*see p. 47, ante*), below Roaring Brook; and these lands (beginning about 1648) were voted away, from time to time; most of them soon after 1672—and became known subsequently as

*Nayaug Farms*, or Noyake—now South Glastonbury. It extended from Roaring Brook southerly to Middletown bounds, and was bounded easterly by the Wilderness, and westerly by the Connecticut River. Like Naubuc, its supposed breadth was three miles—being the length of its lots, measured, not from the River (which at this point, took a southeasterly course), but from a line drawn north and south through the mouth of Roaring Brook.

These four distributions, above described, *nearly* exhausted the *original* territory of Wethersfield, for any purposes of further distribution. It was all now in the actual occupation of individuals, who were employed, according to their several means and abilities, in improving the land which had thus come into their possession.

So that, from 1639 to 1670—a period of thirty-one years, there were no *general distributions* of land in Wethersfield; although special grants, or gifts to individuals, were frequently made in Proprietors' Meetings; sometimes, also, in Town Meeting, with the tacit or implied consent of the proprietors. The Church, also, by virtue of "the Agreement" before referred to (whatever was its nature), made frequent donations of the same kind; but, whether made in the name of the Town, the Church, or the Proprietors, these gifts were always bestowed in public meetings, where these several organizations usually co-operated and voted, as if they were one and the same body; as, indeed, they were, for most practical purposes. No great effort was made to keep the machinery of each distinct from that of the others, and they were generally convened at the same time and place—the latter being the Meeting-House.<sup>1</sup> In this way, most of the lands in the Fearful and West Swamps, Beaver and Mile Meadows, the South Field, and at Nayaug and Rocky Hill, were granted in severalty.

Meanwhile, the General Court occasionally assumed and exercised the right of granting to individuals lands which belonged to the proprietors of a township. In 1668, it granted 300 acres of such land, in the southeast corner of Wethersfield to Sergt. Richard Beckley, but the *Town* ratified the grant; thus showing that it still held, or claimed

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<sup>1</sup> See note to page 93.

the right of disposition of the same. Beckley had already purchased thus holding it by the triple title of purchase, State and Town sanction. What interest the Indian had to sell, if any, does not appear; but it is probable that the original stipulation that Sowheag's men might "sit down" in Wethersfield, operated in Beckley's mind as a possible incumbrance on his title which he wished to guard against. A considerable part of this 300-acre tract, through which the Mattabesett flows, is still owned by Beckley's descendants.

V. "*Mile-in-Breadth*," or "*West Division*" Distribution. In February, 1670, however, (See *W. T. V. I. pp.* 110, 112, 113), another *general distribution* was made of a tract, a mile in breadth (and so generally spoken of) lying next to Farmington township, and extending from Hartford on the north to Beckley's grant, near the Mattabesett, on the south. In this lay-out, only "householders," living *west* of the River, could share—a decided departure from the former rule of apportionment. Each sharer was to draw, in the words of the vote, "one man as much as another"; and, in fact, lots were drawn by a committee chosen for the purpose, in such manner that each householder received a lot whose number corresponded with another number drawn from a box. Lot No. 1 was next to Hartford line, and the other numbers followed in regular succession until the southern limit was reached. There were 76 of these householders who drew each a lot of 52 acres and a mile in length; and to this number, one more, James Wright was added in 1713, as he, being a sole occupant of "The Island," was deemed to be a "West-side inhabitant," for the purpose of this division. This fixes 77 in all, as the householding population west of the River at that time, exclusive of Sergt. Beckley, who had been already provided for. This "Mile-in-Breadth" division will be found, treated in detail, in Chapter XVIII.

It will be found that this tier of lots, with the 8-rod roadway added, will make a tract of *six and one-fifth* miles in length, north and south. There still remained an overplus at the south end, which was not granted out by the Town until some years later. The evidence, therefore, seems to be conclusive, that the length of the township, at the west end, was considerably more than the six miles it has been commonly called, and which was the amount originally stated by General Court. (See, *ante*, p. 50). This division of lands, commonly called the "West Division"—was settled, though not immediately, by men from Wethersfield, or their sons, and was known as the "West Farms"—and later it became the West Society, or parish, of Wethersfield; and, after 1718, the parish

(now the Town) of *Newington*. In regard to the *legality* of this distribution see conclusion of *Appendix VIII*.

In 1672, the following persons, dwelling on the *east* side of the River, made claim to being entitled, each, to a 52-acre lot in the "West Division," just described; and were granted 80 acres each in lieu thereof on the east side of the River at Nayaug: Mr. Richard Treat, Mr. John Hollister, Richard Smith, Thomas Edwards, John Wadhams, Samuel Hale, Jr., Caleb Benjamin and Thomas Loveland. In the same year Samuel Boardman and Thomas Edwards (as we have already seen, *ante*, p. 48), were granted 200 acres each, lying in what became, in 1673, the "Five-Mile Extension," now known as Eastbury. Mr. Josiah Willard, (as shown, *ante*, p.     ), was granted 50 acres. As these parcels all laid outside of the *then* limits of Wethersfield, the titles were taken directly from the Indian Chief Tarramuggas, *et alios*.

Between the years 1672 and 1695, many parcels were granted in Town Meetings, mostly to individuals, and often for some special purpose. In this way, lots were granted by the waterside, both at Wethersfield and at Rocky Hill, for warehouses, landings, ship-building yards, etc., due account of which will appear elsewhere. In the "West Farms," (Newington), Emanuel Buck, Samuel Boardman, John and Joseph Riley, were granted each 20 acres for sawmill purposes, in Pipe Stave Swamp, Oct., 1677. Already, as early as 1661, Gov. Winthrop had been granted land at "Divident" (below Rocky Hill), "sufficient to build mills and dams thereon." But, he having failed to do so within a reasonable time, the same lands were granted by the Town, in 1667, to Rev. Gershom Bulkely and his colleague, Rev. Mr. Stone, the amount being then stated to be "elevenscore acres." To this, in 1668, was added sixscore acres, and 100 acres for Mr. Stone. These lands of Mr. Bulkely's were occupied by him and a gristmill erected thereon, in 1675-6; and, three years later, he received 150 acres more—making 490 in all.

In 1672, the lands on the *east side* of Rocky Hill were, by Town vote, divided equally among proprietors of land there, *in proportion to the length of their lines of fence between Philip Goffe's and Joseph Smith's*—a vote, the meaning of which is not easily understood. The lay-out of the "residue" of lands in the West Swamp was completed this year—the donees being Samuel Butler, Nath'l Graves, Alex. Keeney, Jonathan Smith and John Belden.

There had already begun, by this time (1670-2), to be, on the part



of the three River Towns, a demand for new territory.<sup>1</sup> For, on the 15th of October, 1672, the General Court enacted: "That the bounds of the Town of Wethersfield shall extend *to the eastward of their present bounds* five miles, for the encouragement of the people to plant there." Prior to this time, it will be remembered, the eastern bounds of the Town were but three miles east of the River.

VI. *The Five Mile Extension,*" or the "*Great Indian Purchase*" of 1673. It is needless to say that the inhabitants of Wethersfield were pleased with this order, or permission of the Court, and prompt to avail themselves of it; but like honest men, they felt that something further was required, to extinguish the Indian title. Accordingly, at a Town Meeting held on the 10th of October, 1673, Wethersfield formally voted that the tract in question "shall be purchased of the Indians for use of the *inhabitants* of said town, for them, their heires and suckessors forever." Lieut. John Chester, Mr. Samuel Talcott, Sergt. John Nott, Sergt. Hugh Welles and James Treat (a most notable and representative body of Wethersfield citizens) were appointed a committee to effect the purchase, "in behalfe of the towne and for the use of the inhabitants." Maj. John Talcott, of Hartford, by special vote of the town, received "thanks for his care and paines in and about the premises" (probably some preliminary negotiations, either with the Court, or with the Indian owners), and was requested to continue his good offices until the consummation of the purchase.

The deed of purchase is, rather strangely, dated 10th October, 1673, the same day in which the vote of the Town to purchase, was passed—from which we may fairly infer that the preliminaries had all been settled and the papers prepared, so that the vote and the execution of the deed should be coincident. It conveys the tract in question "to the inhabitants" of Wethersfield, and its form, taken in connection with the form of the Town's vote, would indicate that the title passed to the Town of Wethersfield, as a *body politic*. In the following January (the day of the month is torn off) the Town voted that the purchase price should be paid "by a rate made in pertickuler," so that "every man's paiment to this purchas might be knowne, for an equall devision of this land, according to thear paiments." This was going back to the principle on which the "Mile-in-Breadth," next to Farmington, was allotted, in 1670. The effect was, as we shall see presently, to make this tract,

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<sup>1</sup> Since Hartford, received a similar permission from the General Court, on the same day as Wethersfield, it is probable that there had been a general movement on the part of the River Towns, towards a further easterly extension of their respective bounds.

whilst part of the Township of Wethersfield—yet the undivided land of those persons only whose special tax paid for it; and the interest of each part owner was in proportion to the amount of his tax. Mr. Josiah Willard and Mr. Samuel Butler were the ratemakers and collectors of this tax.

The “consideration” paid to the Indians, was by them expressed as “a valuable sum to us in hand paid”; and the territory conveyed embraced “thirty *large* miles square,” that is to say, “from the east end of Wethersfield, *old bounds*, to run five large miles into the country E, and six large miles in breadth; the said tract of land is scituated lying and being on the E side of Conticet River, bounded with the said Weth. lands west and the Desert E; the side against some part of Middletown bounds S. and lands not yet granted, and Hartford bounds N.” The deed is signed by Tarramuggas; Masecup; Wesumpshye; One Penny (Wumpene ?); Nesaheeg; Seockutt and Pewampskin. It was witnessed by John Talcott, Daniel Clarke, Richard Ely; Sarah Sasakenans, Hannah One Penny (Wumpene ?); Sarah Won Peny; Joseph and Wasanunium. The deed is recorded in *Weth. Rec.* III, pp. 61, 62, and is printed in full in Dr. Chapin’s *Glastonbury Centennial*, pp. 19, 21. The witnesses, Talcott and Clarke, were both among the grantees named in the Colonial Charter of Charles II of 1662. It will be seen that, with the exception of Tarramuggas and Wesumpshye, the names of the seven Indian signers of this deed are different from those of the six signers of the Confirmatory deed of December, 1671, before mentioned (see *Appendix IV*); but it is recited that the present grantors “have full power, good right and lawful authority” to sell, etc.

The tract conveyed by this deed corresponded with what is now Eastbury Society, in Glastonbury; together with that portion of Glastonbury which was set off to Marlborough in 1803 and 1813. By this extension (which continued for about 20 years), Wethersfield became possessed of the largest territory she ever enjoyed. Were her limits the same today, she would embrace an area of 84 square miles, extending 14 miles east and west, and six north and south; and she would be bounded N. by West Hartford, Hartford and East Hartford; E. by Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough; S. by Marlborough, Chatham, Cromwell and Berlin; W. by Berlin and New Britain; Farmington no longer touching Wethersfield, except at a point in the N. W. corner of the latter. With one exception, that of 1770, all subsequent changes in boundaries have resulted in a diminution of her territory. These changes will be noted elsewhere.

The purchase having been duly effected, some parties, without waiting for a formal division of this tract of 30 square miles, quit-claimed their shares, or interests, therein, to others. Mr. John Blackleach, Sen., for instance, bought, in 1674, the rights of Henry Buck, Josiah Churchill, John Curtis, Joseph Hill and Joseph Hurlburt; and the estimated values of these rights, respectively, were based upon the special tax laid to raise the money to pay for the tract. This "list" or "rate," dated January 15th, 1673-4, contains the names of 114 "inhabitants of the Town of Wethersfield," against whom the tax is assessed at the rate of half-a-penny to the pound, of taxable estate. And the amount of the entire list is £23, 1s, 7d, 2far. (if the writer list, whose taxes, respectively, are lost from the torn and ragged edges of the original record. As the average amount of tax against each of these 114 individuals, was somewhat over four shillings apiece, it is extremely probable that the consideration paid for the Five-Mile Extension, was £24; but the deed itself does not give any clue to the amount; nor have we ever heard it before suggested.

The List itself, will be found, given at length, (from *Weth. Rec.* Vol. III, p. 63), in *Appendix VII*.

Nevertheless, when the land came to be *paid for*, the required sum was raised by a tax laid upon the "proprieters" (landowners) of Wethersfield; and the heirs of these "proprieters" afterward, as it seems, made claim to share in the tract in proportion to the amount of the special tax paid by their respective ancestors. Indeed, the Town, Dec. 9th, 1701, by vote, formally renounced its title to this immense tract of thirty square miles, and declared that the title thereto was in those "certain proprietors" of Wethersfield who had purchased the same, "according to the payment which they made in said purchase." It is stated, at the same time, that these proprietors had agreed to this arrangement, among themselves, in a meeting held 8 January—previous to the purchase, is probably meant. A committee, consisting of Gershom Bulkeley, Capt. Thomas Welles, Capt. Robert Welles and Mr. Nathaniel Foote was appointed to recover this land from unauthorized occupants, by law, at the charge of the proprietors.

The General Court, in May, 1703, came to the assistance of the proprietors, as distinguished from the inhabitants or citizens generally. It declared, in construing the effect of the patent granted to Wethersfield and other towns in 1685, that the lands belonging to said townships, with the rights, privileges and immunities, "contained in the above mentioned patents," should be and remain "a full and clear estate of inheritance, in fee simple, to the several *proprieters* of the respective

towns" and their heirs and assigns forever. This, it will be noted, was before the township had been divided by the formation of Glastonbury out of Wethersfield. (*Col. Rec.* Vol. IV, p. 432).

Nevertheless, the people on the east side of the River began soon thereafter to treat the lands embraced in the Five-Mile purchase as belonging to the Town of Glastonbury; and that town voted, 26th Jany., 1713-4, to apportion those lands in severalty. This led to a vote by the "proprietors," held in Wethersfield, 2nd March, 1713-4, to choose Capt. Robert Welles and Capt. Joshua Robbins as their agents and attorneys to take such legal steps as were necessary to "defend their rights" in said lands.

In the meantime Glastonbury, in 1693, became a separate township, and very soon thereafter its people began to claim the "Indian Purchase," as this tract of thirty square miles was now called. As early as 1697, that town, in town meeting, granted to some six or seven of its inhabitants, tracts of forty acres each, in the vicinity of Nipsic pond; thus assuming to own the land in question. On the other hand, the "proprietors," as those who had been taxed to pay for the land originally were called—claimed it for themselves and their heirs. On the 28th of April, 1701, they met, at Wethersfield, and voted: "That the Thirty Square Miles be laid out into Five teer, each a mile long, leaving about 16 rods between each teer; the lots to run in length east and west, leaving convenient highways, to run the whole 5 miles through the whole 5 teer." Lots were to be drawn for positions; number one to begin next Hartford bounds, and the series to run in regular succession, to the southern end of the tier, where the next number was to begin at the northern end of the next tier east; and so on through the other tiers; omitting the sections belonging to Sam. Boardman, John Edwards and Josiah Willard, purchased by them from the Indians. Isaac Boardman "drew" the lots, and Lieut. Stephen Hollister, Ens. Jonathan Boardman, Lieut. Jonathan Bigelow, Sergt. Caleb Stanley, surveyor, Samuel Smith, John Belden, Michael Griswold and William Tryon, were appointed to lay out the lots, as drawn.

How the lots fell, under this drawing, appears in a transcript from the record (made at the time, but not recorded until 1714), which will be found in *Appendix VII*.

On the 22nd day of May, 1701, as appears from a memorandum on the margin of the record, "nine Lotts" were laid out, "according to the draught." So far as appears, no more were ever laid out.

On Dec. 29th, 1701, the Town of Wethersfield, by vote, declared that the succession to the lands in the Five-Mile Extension was in the



*Proprietors*, in proportion as they had, by taxation, paid for it, respectively, and not in the town in general.

The proprietors now, for a time, slumbered on their rights. The next move seems to have been made in Glastonbury, when, Dec. 25th, 1707, that town voted to allot the "undivided lands," among its "inhabitants"; the allotment to be based on the tax lists of that year. Another rest was taken until April 2nd, 1714, when the proprietors recorded the doings of the committee in 1701, and chose Capt. Samuel Welles, of Glastonbury, Nathaniel Talcott, Lieut. Ephraim Goodrich, Edward Bulkeley, and Capt. David Goodrich, of Wethersfield, to take the places of Hollister, Boardman, Bigelow, Belden and Tryon, the deceased members of the old committee; and the new committee was directed to complete the laying out of the tract. Bulkeley was chosen their clerk, and John Nott their collector. On Aug. 5th, Bulkeley was chosen to act in place of Capt. Robert Welles, deceased, with Capt. Joshua Robbins, in prosecuting suits at law in behalf of the proprietors.

On the 27th of January, 1714-15, Glastonbury, in town meeting, voted that the land should be divided among *such* of the inhabitants, and their heirs, as were inhabitants of Glastonbury *when the meeting house was built* [1693]; that being the date, so the vote says—"when this town first became a body politic." Each inhabitant was to be given 100 acres, exclusive of those who had already been provided for. In addition to this, 60 acres each were to be given to some 20 persons, extra, for services rendered the town;<sup>1</sup> and two of whom (Talcotts) were to have 30 acres each, extra. This would not take the whole tract; and it was voted that 6,000 acres more should be allotted among the *present* inhabitants, proportioned to their taxes on the list of 1713.

There were many persons who would have taken under *either* lay-out; but it is evident that the lay-out proposed by the proprietors was the most favorable one for the heirs of the original purchasers.

Glastonbury, under the foregoing vote, proceeded to lay out lands in severalty, mostly in the Indian Purchase, but some below Nayaug—to some eighty of its inhabitants. This moved the proprietors (some of whom lived in Glastonbury), to meet at Wethersfield, Oct. 20th, 1720, and choose Lieut. Benjamin Talcott and Mr. Thomas Welles, both of Glastonbury, and William Burnham, of Wethersfield, to lay out the Indian Purchase, according to the "draught" (*i. e.* the drawing of lots),

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<sup>1</sup>These persons were Mr. John Hollister, Eleazur Kimberly, Lt. Samuel Hale, Mr. Thos. Treat, William House, Joseph Hill and Joseph Bidwell, all dec'd; also to Mr. Samuel Smith, Capt. Samuel Welles, Mr. John Hubbard, Wm. Wickham, Mr. Ephraim Goodrich, Benjamin and Nathaniel Talcott.

of 1701. They were authorized to lay out necessary highways, and a tax of three farthings per acre was levied, to defray expenses. The records do not disclose what was done by this committee; but in view of the difficulty (arising from the fact of the lapse of 47 years since the purchase), of ascertaining and recording the names of heirs; the many transfers of land which had been made in the interval; and the further fact that it was immaterial to some under which allotment they should take—we may assume that the Glastonbury distribution prevailed, excepting in cases where compromises were effected by the committee representing the conflicting interests. Certainly, *some* of the Wethersfield proprietors were allotted lands by Glastonbury, as appears from her records.

In May, 1723, the General Court undertook to fix the law as to the division of town lands. It enacted that where such divisions had been *already* made in town meetings, instead of Proprietors' meetings, the grants, having been acquiesced in by the proprietors, should "be good and effectual in the law." This was probably intended as a healing act, and to prevent endless litigation. By its terms, the Act did not apply to such lands as still remained undivided, which were distinctly declared to be the estate of the proprietors, and not of the town.

The writer has not searched the Court records to see whether actual litigation was had by the parties concerned in the Indian Purchase; but it is probable that the above action of the General Court settled the matter, as to its legal aspects. The proprietors had stood by too long, and seen both Wethersfield and Glastonbury assume control over undivided lands, to be permitted to nullify the *past* acts of those towns in the premises.

Notwithstanding the law of 1723, the Town of Glastonbury, in December of that year, made a further division, embracing more than six thousand acres of land in the Indian Purchase; the allotment being among one hundred and ten "inhabitants" of that town, and based upon the tax-lists of that year. The names of the shares are given in Chapin's *Glastonbury Centennial* (pp. 65-67), with the area each received. Several inhabitants of Wethersfield shared in the division; John Chester, Stephen Chester, Ephraim Goodrich and Robert Powell, among them; but perhaps they took in a representative capacity. Or, it may be, that an attempt was made to distribute according to *law*, rather than in accordance with the terms of the vote.

When, in 1743, the undivided lands south of Nayaug were divided, the apportionment was made by and among the *proprietors* (some of whom were in Wethersfield), and not amongst the taxpaying *inhab-*

*itants.* A similar course was taken in the division, in 1757, of the nine hundred acres in the "mile of common" in the original Indian Purchase. This was the final disposition of the vast tract now constituting Eastbury parish and part of Marlborough Township.—See *Appendix VII.*

*Minor Divisions.*—Before leaving this subject, we may as well speak of several other later and minor divisions of land by the town.

In 1674, the town, having first provided that the two Huckleberry Hills and enough of Sleepy Plain, in addition thereto, to make 1,000 acres in the whole, should be made a *common of pasturage* for the town's use "forever," directed that the lands from "Hither Huckleberry Hill," south to Middletown, should be divided. This large section, lying between the Rocky Hill and West Rocky Hill, of today, was not, however, divided at once; but, by piecemeal.

In March, 1676, the uplands belonging to "Mile Meadow" were ordered to be laid out to such "proprietors" of "Great Meadow," as had received no uplands based upon shares in the latter.

In March, 1678-9, the town voted that thenceforth no land should be given away by the town, excepting where previous notice of intention to pass the necessary vote should have been inserted in the call for the meeting.

In December, 1685, a formal vote was passed that no more lands should be given away by special grants to individuals. Thenceforth, grants were to be only by way of *general* division, or allotment.

In 1683 and 1687, a common for sheep was established between the "Short Lots" (S. side of Jordan's Lane of to-day), on the north; Cedar Mountain Ridge west; south line of Coleman's lot by "Saw Mill Path," south; and the rear of the "Long lots" (the new road running S. from Wyllys Welles' house of to-day) in the east. This tract of about 120 acres was not opened to occupation in severalty until 1694. This common, in 1689, was extended southerly and westerly to the north end of Deming's Meadow, now the "Reservoir" lot. In 1688, a common was made in the west central part of Rocky Hill, from the end of the road running west from house of Jonathan Deming's Sr., on the east, to Fern Hill, west. In 1694, the town voted that the commons, except those needed for cattle, sheep and getting stone, be divided among the "inhabitants," *according to their lists of estate* in 1693, exclusive of "tenants, prentices or transient sojourners."

Acting upon this same rule of distribution, the town in February, 1693-4, voted to divide all the remaining undivided lands (exclusive of the stated commons) on the ratio of half an acre per pound of tax,

on the recipient's list of 1693. Non-resident taxpayers were not entitled to, and did not share. Those on the east side of the river were, of course, cut off from sharing, since Glastonbury had become a separate township. Women of full age, and taxpayers shared in this division, but not minors. The operation of this rule was to give the most land to those who already had the most; which was consistent with the original theory (which had lately been departed from), that the undivided lands *belonged* to resident "proprietors," in proportion to their interest therein, as determined either by their tax lists, or the acreage of their real estate.

On the 15th of April, 1695, lots were drawn for these shares; the general plan of the lay-out, together with results, and names of persons holding shares being fully given in *Appendix VIII*, as also in Chapter XVIII.

At the time of the vote for allotment of lands in 1693, it was provided that no drawer of land should sell it to any person not an inhabitant of the town, under penalty of forfeiture of his share.

It is obvious that notwithstanding the votes of 1679 and 1685, the town continued to vote away, to particular individuals, lands to which all "proprietors" (*i. e.*, taxpayers) were entitled. This led to a protest, made January 28, 1697-8, and presented in town meeting, as follows:

"To the town meeting to publish and record:

Forasmuch as highways, streets and stated commons, &c., are greatly for the advantage of the present, and also for future ages; and the parting with the same injurious—the consideration of what has been done amongst us, and men, by their cunning contrivances and insinuations, are studious to doe—and it has been usuall for a few men (and possibly those not the maine in defraying of publick charge) to give away the lands belonging to the proprietors inhabitants in generall, and have commonly given it to those which have done lest service for the town, and paid lest in the charges the town hath been att; voting in town meetings when the inhabitants have many of them been withdrawn; and, because there is not anoff present to countermand their proceedings, it is taken for granted it is past recovery; and this notwithstanding repeated and sundry voats past and recorded to the contrary:

Wee, whose names are subscribed, inhabitants of Weathersfield, doe manefest, declare and make known, that wee disclaime, give caution and protest, against all alienation, gifts, grants, &c., whatsoever, of any highways, streets, stated commons, or lands in generall, belonging to



the township of Wethersfield, to any perticular person or persons whatsoever.

And further, we doe desire, if men will preecipetantly run into such actions as are detrimentall to uss, and those that shall succeed—that our dislike be published and recorded, that soe wee may, in time to come, have our shares of said lands; and that, without trouble or lawsuits. Surely, if town grants are firm and good to perticular persons—they are of as great vallue and force for the generall benefit of the town.

John Chester Sen <sup>r</sup>	John Belding
Joseph Wright Sen <sup>r</sup>	Thomas Hollister
John Kilburn Sen <sup>r</sup>	Samuel Treat
Joseph Wright Jun <sup>r</sup>	Thomas Chester
Ebenez <sup>or</sup> Kilburn	Dan <sup>l</sup> Borman
George Kilburn	James Treat junior."
Sam <sup>l</sup> Wright	Ebenezer Deming
Sam <sup>l</sup> Borman [Boardman]	Abraham Crane
Isaac Borman	John Latimer
Jonathan Belding	John Chester Ju <sup>r</sup>
William Burnham	Thomas Weels [Welles]
Thomas Griswold	Stephen Chester
Abraham Kilburn	Jacob Griswold
Josiah Gilbert	

The foregoing is a pretty strong document; and the names that follow it are those of the most substantial inhabitants of the town at that time. It indicates that the ways of the leading voters in town meetings were as devious, sometimes, as they are today.

*Wallingford Lands.* At the January session, 1686-7, the General Court passed the following order: "This Court grants Weathersfield, Middleton and Farmington all those vacant lands between Wallingford bounds and the bounds of those plantations, to make a village therein."

Mr. Field, in his *Centennial Address* (p. 39) concerning Middletown and its parishes—says that this grant was in 1659, which is clearly a mistake. He also says that "this grant covers the tract generally now constituting Berlin." If it included any part of the present Berlin, it must have been that part south of the north line of Middletown, produced westerly; and west of its west line. The south bounds of Farmington were so indefinitely stated, in 1645 (five miles, with "liberty to improve ten miles further," "from the hill in the great meadow towards Masseco), [Simsbury] that it is difficult to say how

far south that township extended. But Farmington certainly extended below Wethersfield. And Middletown extended further west than Wethersfield. It is not easy, therefore, to see how any land, not in Farmington or Middletown, lay *between* Wethersfield and Wallingford, unless a tract *not contiguous* to Wethersfield, but below Farmington's south line—were taken.

Whether Wethersfield ever took anything under this grant, I can not say. But, as late as December 20th, 1708, the town, after reciting the grant, appointed a committee, consisting of Capt. Joshua Robbins, Capt. Robert Welles and Lieut. Benjamin Churchill (surveyor), "to do any lawfull act or acts wch wee are able to doe, in order to a survey of the said tract, and what further they may judge meet, in order to the settling of the same with inhabitants, or its distribution for our use." No return by this committee appears on record.

The land in question was part of the public lands of the colony, granted away, the same as great sections were granted to Hartford and Windsor—in order to prevent Sir Edmond Andros, as Governor of New England, from controlling it, or exercising jurisdiction over it. It is not easy to see the wisdom of such legislative action; and, in fact, it led to long and bitter controversies between the towns, grantees, and the Colony.

COMMONS were also matters of the greatest importance to our forefathers. These were not the same as "undivided lands," "common and undivided lands," "lands ungiven," etc., terms often met with in the older land records. These all mean one and the same thing, to-wit, wild lands belonging to the plantation or township in its corporate capacity; or rather, to the whole body of "proprietors" constituting the township; and these lands had not been set apart for any use whatever, but were lands *out of which* Commons, as well as "home lots," were taken. Nor, were Commons the same as "commonfields," as we understand the term. The latter were tracts of land, like the Great Meadow, Beaver and Mile Meadows, in which each one's land was distinctly defined by metes and bounds, but in which divisional fences were not maintained. Each owner improved his own part in his own way, as he does today; but, after the crops were removed it was, as it still is, the custom to depasture the common fields; allowing each owner to turn in a number of cattle, proportioned to his acreage of land therein.

A common (usually a common of pasturage, as distinguished from a common of fishery, etc.) was established, from time to time, by vote of the town. Its bounds and area were stated in the vote; and also the

*kind* of common; that is, whether for sheep, or for horses and neat cattle. So far as the records show, any inhabitant was at liberty to turn in as many cattle as he happened to have; just as if no one person had any more, or any less, right in it than another, in depasturing it. But the rule was different as to the use of timber and stone upon them; these could be taken, by individuals, only by special vote of the town; but the town itself could take what timber and stone it pleased.

It was the duty of "herders," usually two at a time, chosen by the town, to guard the cattle and horses in the commons, and the "shepherds," chosen in like manner, to care for the sheep. Horses were "branded" and cattle and swine were given "ear-marks." In 1643, the General Court ordered that the care of the commons should be in the hands of seven "able and discreet men," chosen by the respective towns. The number was reduced to five, in 1644. In 1650, the duty was transferred to the "townsmen," or as we now call them "selectmen," in whose hands it thereafter remained.

The first *common* in Wethersfield was also probably established in the first year of the planting of the town, or, certainly, as early as 1636. It was a tract of land bounded east by "Meadow Row" (the present east side of High Street at the north end); south, by the homestead of George Hubbard (about opposite to the west end of the present highway to the river landing); west by Edward Mason's homestead (northeast of the present prison site); north by the river (now The Cove). This tract was for some years "*The Common*," because it was the only one. And it is a singular fact that, whilst it was the first one to disappear as such, yet its locality is still known by the same name, and other commons, which long outlived it, long ago ceased to bear the name of "common." It is not to be supposed that, during the time when this was the only common, *all* the cattle of the town were pastured in it. On the contrary, the town herders and shepherds *baited* flocks and herds on the town lands not set apart as stated commons; and the one of which we are now speaking was much too small to nourish all the cattle and horses. Some were kept in private pastures. The practice of cattle pasturing upon the meadows has been discontinued, within, perhaps, the last twenty years.

It was in 1680, that this common was practically discontinued, by authority being given to a committee to lay it out into home lots. Some land had previously been granted out of it—Henry Buck had a home lot taken from it as early as 1661, and Samuel Welles (son of

Gov. Thomas) had a piece granted him, in 1662, near the waterside, to set a warehouse upon.

The next common established was in 1674, when the town voted that "The two Huckleberry Hills, and so much of Sleepy Plain," in addition thereto, as should amount to 1,000 acres "shall be a settled common, to remain to the use of the town in general, for the feeding of sheep, or cattle, forever." These hills were in Rocky Hill, and not to be confounded with the hill of that name in Wethersfield of today. The name, in Rocky Hill, and the term "common," in connection with it, long ago became obsolete.

At the same time with the above vote, it was provided that all the "dry cattell" should be kept on this common. In 1686, it was voted that persons using the sheep commons should give two days' time in the year, in "keeping them clear," instead of one day, as theretofore.

March 21, 1689-90.

It is this day agreed, between Thomas Kircom and the Selectmene of the Town of Wethersfield, as followeth: That the said Kircom doth ingage unto the abousaid Select men, namely—John Butolph Robert Wells, Samuell Hale, Jr., Nathaniel Bowman—to take the charge of the flocke for this present year; and to begin his worke to kepe the sheepe on the eight day of Aprill, and to kepe them all sumer, untill the first snow next winter; and the said Kircum is to have twelve shillings in current pay, for every weeke he kepeth the flock. As witness his hand.

*his*

THOMAS S. KIRCUM.

*mark*

In 1683, "the land lying between the west end of the Long Lots and the Hog Meadow, and from the Short Lots next Hartford line, to the Saw Mill Path shall be settled for a sheep pasture for the town's use forever." This tract, to describe it more plainly, was bounded north by the tier of lots next south of what is now Jordan's Lane; east by a line about where the new highway next west of the Wolcott Hill road is; south by the Churchill road to Newington (or Collier Road); west by Hog Meadows, and was a common until 1724(?). It was enlarged in 1686, on the west side, so as to make it amount to 1,200 acres; and it was then provided that cattle, as well as sheep, might be pastured on it.

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<sup>1</sup> *Sleepy Plain* was southwest of what is now the central part of Rocky Hill; name is now probably obsolete.



In 1688, the Smith, or "Huckleberry Hills" common was enlarged by extension westward to "Ferne Hill" (this was near "Hang Dog")<sup>1</sup> "as now lyeth, from the south side of the road which runs westward by the present home lot of Jonathan Deming, Senior." Deming's home lot was on the corner now occupied by the home of James Warner, at Rocky Hill.

In 1708, an entry is made of record, for the first time, of the original laying out of the common of 1683, as enlarged in 1686. It extended from the end of the West Field lots, to the north end of Deming's Meadows (present Reservoir site),<sup>2</sup> and so to the edge of Cedar Mountains, to the Short Lots, and so to Hartford line, or near Hartford line."

A stated common was again established in the West Farms, near Newington, in 1694. It was half a mile in breadth from east to west, and six miles long from north to south; being bounded N. by the Hartford line; E. by a tier of lots laid out at the same date; S. by the Middletown line; W. by the tier of 52 acre lots, a mile in length next

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<sup>1</sup> *Fern Hill*, a designation of the eastern part of an eminence southeast of Griswoldville. It takes this name from the woody, or sweet fern (*Comptonia asplenifolia*) growing there, some of which still remains. It is somewhat used in making root beer. The true ferns abound in the woods and meadows of Wethersfield.

*Hang-Dog*, (a name also found in other parts of the State) was applied to a swamp in Wethersfield, 1688 or earlier, when the Town gave Wid. Sarah Bishop, 20 acres of land near it. It seems to have been located at, or near *Dividend*.

*Dividend* was a name given to a tract lying between the Middletown road, west, and Conn. River, east, Middletown, N. line south and extending far enough northerly to make it about equilateral. It is first mentioned in a town-vote of 5 June, 1661, grant to Gov. Winthrop, in fee, "Devident brook and sofisient [sufficient] land to build upon, both milles and dames," upon condition that he should build a mill, or mills, "according to his proposition made to the town." But the Governor failed to build, and the same tract, substantially, was afterwards granted to Rev. Gershom Buckley. The name is supposed to have originated in the fact of the proximity of the tract to the "divident line" between Wethersfield and Middletown.

<sup>2</sup> *Deming's Meadow*, so named from Ebenezer Deming, purchaser of the lands—a tract of swampy, or "springy" land where the Griswold Reservoir now is, being the source of the Mill Brook. It is first mentioned in Feb., 1701-8, by town-vote laying out a stated common. In March, 1715-16, the town gave permission to Eliphalet Dickinson and William Blinn to "flood" it, so as to increase the waterflow of Mill Brook, for the benefit of Mr. Chester's grist-mill, of which they were the lessees.

*Deming's Plain*. The name first occurs in a town vote of 28 Dec., 1696, when Jonathan Deming, Sen., was given 15 ac. of land at the south end thereof. It was a tract lying west of Middletown road, and south of the main road now running from Rocky Hill, to Griswoldville. A stream separated it from Tree Plain. It was granted to Jonathan Deming, Jr., in 1685. I believe the name long ago became obsolete.

to Farmington line. This great common for pasturage was what, probably, gave to that section the name of "Cow Plain."

This appears to have been the last common established in Wethersfield. In the general allotment of town lands, in 1754, this, as well as the Huckleberry Hills common and the Hog Meadow common were discontinued and the lands in them apportioned in severalty. (APPENDIX V.)

HIGHWAYS demanded the early attention of the settlers. From what we have seen, it may be gathered that, by 1640, the following highways had been laid out in Wethersfield:

*The Road to Hartford*, running west from Hartford Road to the Wilderness—now Jordan's Lane; opened before 1640.

*Fort Street, now Prison Street.*

*High Street and Meadow Row*—the two now forming High Street.

Two highways running easterly from High Street to Great Meadow,—the northerly one has entirely disappeared.

*Rose Lane, Bell Lane and The Green*—the three now constituting Main Street.

*Short Street*—a road running easterly from Short Street to the Great Meadow through the Lower Gate.

*Broad Street*—road easterly from Broad to Great and Little Plains and Beaver Meadow.

*Fletcher's Lane and Watering Lane*—now the road westerly from the centre of Broad Street to the angle in Back Lane.

*Carpenter's Lane*—extending a short distance only from the southwest corner of Broad.

*The Path to the Mill*—southerly, from the south end of Bell Lane.

*Road to West Swamp*—westerly from lower end of Bell Lane.

Besides several roads extended through Great, Beaver and Mile Meadows; and Wet and Fearful Swamps. One, "Path through the Middle," was on the Island; and one highway running east and west, from the river to the Wilderness, was "reserved" through the length of Nathaniel Foote's lot, in Naubuc Farms, east of the Connecticut River. Concerning roads laid out subsequently to 1640, we may say something hereafter, if our limits permit. It may be said, however, that, for many years, roads—as a rule—were taken out of lands *belonging to the town*, and not from those of private owners. (See Appendix VII.)

THE TOWN'S BOUNDS have been changed, or re-established, from time to time, aside from the periodical "perambulation" required by Statute,

for many years past. On March 8, 1653, the townsmen, with Sam. Smith, John Chester, John Kilbourn, Jr., John Dickinson and "Richard Treat, or James" were chosen to meet at the "Divident line," with such men as Mattabesett (Middletown) should chose, to settle the line "betwixt Mattabesett and us," on "Monday come seven nights."

March 6, 1657, John Deming, Jr., John Nott and William Goodrich were chosen to run the line between Hartford and Wethersfield, on the 25th inst.; and, at the same time, John Kilbourn, Philip Smith and James Treat were directed to run the line between Mattabesett and Wethersfield, the 27th inst.

Entries like the above occur frequently on the *Wethersfield Records*, and refer, probably, merely to the regular annual "perambulations" maintained between the several towns. But there were also, frequent adjustments of town boundaries, which were necessitated by questions of infringement, etc., which arose from time to time.

*The West Line* of the town, between Wethersfield and Farmington (see also, *Appendix III*), seems to have been the occasion of most of this bound-settling, from 1665, down to a later period. This may have arisen from the variance of statement in the Indian deed to Wethersfield and that made by the General Court in fixing the east bound of Farmington; there being a discrepancy of a mile between the statements. But whatever the cause may have been, it was settled by an "agreement" arrived at, October 29th, 1670, by the two committees of Wethersfield and Farmington. This agreement, signed by Sam. Borman (Boardman), John Riley, Hugh Wells and John Nott, on behalf of Wethersfield, and by Will Lewis, John Wadsworth, John Stanley and Sam. Steele, in behalf of Farmington, provides that the dividing line shall be "the heepe of stones on the E. side of a bogie meadow that is the utmost extent of Hartford and Weathersfield bounds westward and Farmeingtowne eastward; and from thence to rune to a white oke tree, marked on foure sides, standing about a mile to the S. of Matabesette R., on riseing land, and is the utmost extent of Weathersfield bounds westward, at southwest corner, and Farmeingtowne bounds eastward. And there, at that tree, wee joyntly agree to have a heape of stones or a ditch within the space of twelve months after the date hereof; and a straight line betwext these two corners shall be the prpettual bound marks betwext Farmintowne and Weathersfield, which is all redy indevered, runing hafe a point to the W. of the S. from the heepe of stones, tele we come to the marked trees; being the stated conclusion of the right line by the Comity above speassified;

as witness our hands, this twenty-nine of October, 1670." (*Wethersfield Land Rec. II*, p. 8.)

On the 14th April, 1707, two committees, consisting of John Chester, Jonathan Belding (Belden) and John Curtiss, Jr., on the part of Wethersfield, and Capt. Thomas Hart, Lieut. John Hart and Jonathan Smith on the part of Farmington, met together at the heap of stones in the N. W. corner of Wethersfield, and, after comparing their notes of instructions, and the record of 1671, in company with Caleb Stanley, County Surveyor, proceeded thence S. half a point W. to Capt. Hart's new house, 17½ rods W. of the White Oak tree in the S. W. corner of Wethersfield bounds. They adjourned to meet again next day at said tree. On the 15th, they met there, and the surveyor set his instrument to run a direct line to the heap of stones at the N. end of the line. His first observation went about three rods "or better" W. of Thos. Hancox' house. It being showery, further proceedings were stopped until next day, when the committees met at the N. end of the line, at the heap of stones, whence the County Surveyor, with the co-operation of both committees, ran a line S. seven minutes W. to the S. end of the line, where, at its junction with Middletown, it fell about 19 rods to the E. of the tree which marked the S. W. corner of Wethersfield. This line fell so as to cross some lots improved by Farmington people, and which were laid out or should have been, so as to make their *east* bounds coincident with the line between the two towns. The Wethersfield committee then desired the Farmington committee to try to ascertain where a straight line drawn from S. W. corner to N. W. corner would fall; but the Farmington committee only answered that "they would return what was done to the town, or their town." Wethersfield committee then said that the County Surveyor must lay out the bound. The Farmington committee then went away, and Wethersfield remained and "measured the length of one of our long lotts" (which abutted on Farmington bounds) "about No. 67, and found the length about as first laid out."

On the 17th and 18th of June, following, the County Surveyor (Mr. Stanley) together with the Wethersfield committee ran a direct line from corner to corner on the W. side of Wethersfield. They began at the N. heap of stones, and proceeding thence to the S. heap they blazed a great number of trees, the distance of each of which from the N. heap is given. Ditches and other natural features along the line were mentioned. In one case 120 rods S. of N. end, they marked a tree with the initials R. W., J. C., and H. D. In some cases, old marks on trees were found and noted. At the distance of 2 miles, 120 rods,



S. from the north end, they found a heap of stones, and a Chestnut tree marked W. on its E. side; "about 5 foot" from this heap was a stone marked H. D., J. C., T. C., and W. R. Thomas North's piece of wheat was crossed, among other improved lands. "Green Swamp," a name not previously found in Wethersfield records, was traversed. Among other trees blazed were oak, red, white and black; chestnut, elm, maple, butternut, basswood, box, walnut, red ash, white ash, poplar and beach. The S. end of the straight line bounding Wethersfield on the west was found to be six miles, one-fourth and twelve rods S. of the N. end of the same.

The foregoing is, in brief, the Wethersfield account of steps taken to establish the west bounds of the town, as recorded in Vol. II, of its land records. Whereupon, March 1st, 1707-8, Farmington passed a vote, in town meeting, providing that:

"Whereas, Maj. John Chester, with some others, have presumed to draw a line cross some part of our lands, wch lands have for a long time been claimed and poss'ed by us; wch line drawn as abovesaid, is westward of the range of marked trees reputed to be the line between Weathersfield and this town—these are therfore to impower our present selectmen \* \* \* \* to demolish and destroy the ditches and marks soe disorderly drawn; they takeing care to informe the select men of Weathersfield of their doing therein."

Farmington had previously instructed its committee not to make any changes in the line which had existed "for near 40 years" in accordance with "annual perambulations" by the towns concerned, etc. Wethersfield had instructed its Selectmen to run a *straight* line from corner to corner.

To set the matter at rest, the General Assembly, in October, 1708, upon the petition of Wethersfield, provided that: "A straight line, run from the heap of stones at the S. W. corner of Hartford bounds, on the E. side of a boggy meadow, to a certain white oak tree, marked on four sides, standing on rising land, about a mile to the S. of Mattabesett River, shall be the dividing line between the said two towns." Also, that this line should be run by the County Surveyor, of Hartford County, who should make monuments at the charge of Wethersfield. Also, that if the line should cross lands "bettered by any labor or cost bestowed upon it by his bordering neighbor, the owner of such land shall give reasonable satisfaction to his neighbor," to be appraised by indifferent men mutually chosen, etc.

The Surveyor, Caleb Stanley, March 25th and 26th, 1709, ran the line, in accordance with this direction. In his return to the General

Assembly, he says that the course "is very near S. forty-two minutes westerly; and N. forty-two minutes easterly." Also, that "there is a stream a little N. of the River above mentioned [Mattabesett], which is hardly half so big as said River, weh empties itself about 39 rods below, or E. of the line, into said River; and the corner tree above mentioned stands a mile & one quarter S. of that stream, where the line crosses it." This return was accepted and adopted by the General Court, May 19th, 1709.

It should be added that Farmington made several fruitless attempts in the General Assembly to have this settlement of the line changed. This was the case in 1710 (upon the petition of Capt. Thos. Hart and Lieut. John Stanley); in 1711; in 1713, and in 1722. The Legislature would not disturb the *straight* line established in 1708; but in each case dismissed the petitioners, and required them to pay the costs of the respondents. And so this controversy, the last of the kind, so far as appears, between the towns involved—was finally ended.

This remained the W. bound of Wethersfield until the formation of Berlin, in 1785 (see under the heading *South Line, post*), and Newington, in 1871-2, which see under Wethersfield and Newington *parishes*.

*South Line.* In 1671, Wethersfield voted to settle the line between itself and Middletown, on both sides the river. A committee on the part of Wethersfield was chosen, consisting of John Chester, John Riley, John Nott, Sam. Boardman and Hugh Welles; a similar committee was chosen by Middletown, consisting of Ens. Nath. White and Mr. John Ward. On the first day of October, 1671, the committees met, at the tree marked N. F., by the bank of Connecticut River, whence they ran a *true west* line, "according to a marredian compas." Trees were blazed along the line, and stakes were "set up" across the Plain. A great white oak on the west side of the road to Middletown, was marked M. B. on the S. side, and W. B. on the north; the E. side with the initial letters of the Wethersfield committee and the W. with those of the Middletown. Thence W. to Pine Swamp stakes were erected, and another white oak marked as before, and two more at the W. side of said Swamp. "At 3-mile Hill, and the next one to it westward," more trees were marked; also one next to "Besett" River. Then a tree at "New Haven Path;" next, and last, "the corner tree at the W. end of Wethersfield bounds." (*Wethersfield Land Rec. II, 12.*)

The south line E. of the river was not run at this time; and as Wethersfield territory on that side was set off within twenty years afterward,

it is probable no action, as to *that part* of the line, was taken part in by Wethersfield, certainly no such action appears of record.

On March 15th, 1707-8, Wethersfield appointed Lieut. Jona. Boardman, Lieut. David Goodrich, Jacob Griswold and John Chester a committee to "settle" the S. bounds, "with sufficient ditches and heaps of stones." Middletown chose John Hamlin, Nathaniel White and John Hall as a co-operative committee; and the two bodies met on the 12th of April, 1808, and re-established the straight line of 1671, "with the help of the County Surveyor." On this occasion, monuments, ditches and heaps of stones were constructed at intervals of about forty rods, "except in Pine Swamp, where there is a white wood tree marked." A "memorandum" is added, to the effect that in Brush Swamp (a new name) one station was missed, and in Pine Swamp, three. Also that "the length from extream to extream, between Weathersfield & Middletown [is] five miles & one half, & one chain; besides the dividant meadow, viz.: 44 Tallo [*i. e.*, Tallies]; besides the meadow, from the stone by the river to the tree by the brow of the hill, about 70 rods." (*Wethersfield Land Rec. II*, 13.) It will be seen that the entire length of the south line in 1708 (and it probably had not changed from the original establishment thereof in 1671) measured but 234 rods over five miles; whilst the Indian Purchase entitled the town to "six large" miles west from the river; a very material variance, to the prejudice of the town. This, so far as the writer knows, is the first and only statement, official or otherwise, of the length of the S. boundary line, or of the breadth of Dividend Meadow; a name which the alluvial tract next the river, at that point, bears to this day.

(In 1662-3, and in 1672, the General Court had enacted that *Middletown's* west bounds should extend westerly five miles *from the meeting house* at that place. The writer is unable to say how far that edifice was from the river. But the effect of this description would be to carry the N. line of Middletown farther west than the S. line of Wethersfield. That this was the fact appears to have been the occasion of a long controversy between Middletown and Farmington, terminated in 1723, 1725, 1730, 1731, by the General Assembly, which then enacted in effect that Middletown's west line (where it adjoined Farmington) should lie five miles west of a line drawn N. & S. through the *old* meeting house, and parallel thereto. This carried the west line *beyond* Wethersfield's west line, probably five-eighths of a mile. The contest between Middletown and Farmington was bitter, and, at times, violent.)

No other change was made as to the S. line of the town until May, 1785, when by the act incorporating the Town of Berlin from parts of Farmington, Middletown and Wethersfield, a tract of land, nearly square, and embracing an area of about two and two-thirds square miles, was taken from Wethersfield and made to form part of the new town. This was done on the application of inhabitants of the parishes of Kensington, Worthington and New Britain; concerning which more will be said, under the head of *Parishes*. The Township of Wethersfield, contributed to the new neighbors all that part of Worthington Parish lying within its limits, including the section known as Beckley's Quarter. The effect of this change was to make the N. and E. bounds of Worthington Parish (so far as that parish was in Wethersfield) to be the S. and W. bounds of Wethersfield. The three parishes concerned, it should be remembered, had grown out of the Great Swamp Parish, which will be referred to hereafter. The bounds of Worthington Parish had been fixed, in October, 1772, when Kensington Parish was divided, the W. part retaining the old name of Kensington, and the E. part taking the new name of Worthington. But, so far as Wethersfield was concerned, the bounds of Worthington were the same as those of its predecessor, Kensington (so called since 1722); and Kensington's bounds to the same extent, were the same as those of *its* predecessor, the Second Parish of Farmington; otherwise called the "Great Swamp" Parish. Hence, we must look to the description of the Great Swamp Parish to find the line between the old town of Wethersfield and the new town of Berlin. That description, so far as it concerned Wethersfield, was fixed in the Act of 1715, when a part of Wethersfield, West Soc. (Newington) was annexed to the Great Swamp. The Act provided that the part of Wethersfield, West Soc., "from the N. side of Hurlburt's lot and from the north side of Stephen and John Kelsey's lands, to Middletown bounds, including the Beckly's land, shall be annexed to the Great Swamp Society. Newington Parish bounds will be stated when we come to consider *Parish Lines*.

The south line, as above modified remained the south jurisdictional line, until the formation of Rocky Hill Township, in 1843, when the following became the south line of Wethersfield:

"Beginning at the Connecticut River, thence in a due west course to a button-ball tree in the fence on the E. side of the highway, about two rods north of Goff's Bridge. thence to the Four Corners, so called [where the road from Griswoldville to Rocky Hill crosses the old road from Berlin to Hartford], so as to intersect the northeast angle of said Four Corners; thence, along the E. side of said old road, to the Hang-



dog Road; thence by the N. side of Hangdog Road, to the road on which [Amos] Benson lives; thence W. in a line parallel with the Two-rod highway, to Twenty-rod highway; thence S. by the E. side of Twenty-rod highway, to a point three degrees N. E. of the monument in the N. E. corner of Berlin; thence W. to said monument."

This line has remained the S. line of Wethersfield so far as Rocky Hill is concerned, until the present day.

*North Line.* When the bounds between Hartford and Wethersfield were first stated in February, 1636-7, it was only in a general way:

"Att a tree mrked N. F., & to wch the Pale of the saide Harteforde is fixed, to goe into the Countrey due east & on the other side of the Greate River from Pewter Pott Brook, att the lower side of Hocanno, due east into the Countrey." (*Col. Rec. Conn. I, 8.*)

In November, 1671, Mr. (Thomas) Welles, Mr. (John) Steele, Mr. (John) Plumb and James Boosey (the two last from Wethersfield) were appointed by the General Court to "runne the lyne west into the country, between Hartford and Wethersfield, to begin at the Gr. River against the marked tree" (p. 69). The writer has not been able to find any report returned by this committee, if it made any. This, it will be seen, related to that part of the two towns *west* of the river. No further action, it appears, was taken by either town until after the separation of the east from the west by the formation of Glastonbury. In 1696, Wethersfield, by Capt. Robert Welles, Ens. John Chester, Mr. Nathaniel Foote and John Stoddard, petitioned the General Court for "a straight running" of the jurisdiction line. Owing to informalities in the petition nothing was done. On Dec. 16th, 1697, Hartford proposed to Wethersfield that a direct line be run from the N. F. Stone at Pennywise, to "Colé's Stub"; thence direct to Skinner's Stub; thence direct to Mr. Steele's tree; then *inclining into a straight line*, drawn between the merestone<sup>1</sup> in Pennywise to the heap of stones at the W. end of the bounds between Hartford and Farmington; which straight line was to *begin* on Cedar Mountains. Wethersfield "consented," so the Hartford record says; and Wethersfield records are silent on the subject. Pursuant to this understanding, a committee from Hartford, consisting of Capt. Joseph Wadsworth, Capt. Cyprian Nichols, Lieut. Zachariah Sanford, Aaron Cooke and Ichabod Welles, the latter a surveyor—met with Mr. Thomas Welles, Mr. Nathaniel Foote, John Stoddard, Sen., John Chester, with Benjamin Churchill for surveyor, on the part of Wethersfield, on the 18th of April, 1698, and ran a line as follows:—

“Beginning at the merestone in Pennywise; next to a small tree in Goodman Cole’s pasture, about two rods N. of fense of same; next to Cole’s Stub, where is a small heap of stones at the roots of the same, and a ditch; next to a small ditch in John White’s pasture; next to Skinner’s Stub, where is a small ditch, about 20r. W. of said Stub, in the street or common; next a small ditch on the W. of Bevill Water’s land, and a heap of stones; next Mr. Steele’s tree; next a heap of stones on the edge of Cedar Mountains; next a small black oak on the plains below the mountain, with a ditch; next a white oak on the east of Piper’s River, which tree was an old bound tree, and is on the N. of Cow Plain, with a small ditch near the same; next a small white oak, with a ditch, about 50 or 60r. W. of Piper’s River; next a small ditch near Birch Swamp, about half a mile W. of Piper’s River, near 4r. N. of a great white oak, formerly a bound tree; next a small red oak, about 60 rods W. of the “aforenamed”; next a heap of stones at the foot of a small white oak; next an oak, marked, with a ditch near it, near the E. end of the 50-acre lots; next a great white oak, on the W. side of a swamp, with a heap of stones at the roots of the tree, which is called Four Mile hill; next a red oak, marked, about 40 rods W. of said tree, with a small ditch near the red oak; next a small walnut tree, marked, with a small ditch near it; next a great white oak, marked; next a small white oak, marked, with a ditch near it; next the heap of stones finishing the line between Hartford and Wethersfield.” (*Hfd. Records I, p. 8*).

It is interesting in this connection to note the apparent abundance of oak trees between Cedar Mountains and Farmington. No less than twelve were used as line trees, and all but three were of the white species. This survey also reveals to us the position of “Piper’s” River; about which the common notion is, so far as the writer knows—that it was in the present township of Rocky Hill. Incidentally, in May, 1719, in establishing the line between Hartford and Glastonbury, the Wethersfield line was involved; and the committee in that case recognized the mouth of Pewter Pot Brook as the eastern extremity of Wethersfield’s north line; although, by the act making Glastonbury a town (1690), the river had been made the boundary line between Wethersfield and Glastonbury. The reason of this will be seen when we come to consider the east line.

In December, 1709, Wethersfield voted that the north line, from the N. F. tree east to the river should be settled. On Sept. 13th, 1713, Wethersfield’s committee, consisting of Benjamin Churchill (surveyor), Jonathan Belding and Edward Bulkeley—met with Hartford’s committee, consisting of Cyprian Nichols and Thomas Hosmer, and ran

this line. In their joint report they say that they began at a merestone at or near Pennywise (where the N. F. tree was); thence by the needle of the compass to the river. Bound-marks were set as follows:

“A stone on the W. side of the Cove, by Standishe’s Island, about 50 rods from the mere-stone where we began; also a stone about the middle of Standishe’s Island; also a stone on the east side of the same Island; also a stone at the edge of the River, on the west side of the said River.”

This comprehended but a small part of the north line, but it was a very important part. So matters continued until March, 1734-5. Wethersfield appointed Sergt. John Russell, Samuel Robbins and John Stillman a committee to join a Hartford committee, to settle that part of the “Divident Line,” between the two towns, “viz: in that part between ye tree N. F. and ye mouth of Puter Pot Brook.” In March, 1747-8, Col. Elizur Goodrich, Mr. John Stillman and Capt. Samuel Butler were appointed a committee for the same purpose. What was done under these commissions, if anything, does not appear. In 1767, Wethersfield petitioned the General Court, appointing Col. John Chester for that purpose—to have the whole north line settled. In their petition they ask for “some other and further dividing line than the *ancient one* from the N. F. tree W. to Farmington, and from the mouth of P. P. Brook east to the Wilderness,” for the north line; and some other than the River for the east. They say that there are but two monuments on the north side, and these are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles apart; also, that the River has changed its course. [*Col. Rec. X (Mss.)* 430]. The Assembly, in 1769, appointed Hez. Huntington, David Burr and Samuel Adams, Esq., “to describe a line, or lines, from the N. F. tree to the *ancient* mouth of P. P. Brook, as near as they can find and discover the place where the same *originally was*; and to run the same in such particular place, course and manner as they shall think right & most convenient.” In October, 1770, the Committee reported: “That they found, on a bank, about 203 rods west of the Great River, a mere-stone, agreed to be where the ancient N. F. tree stood; also that Wethersfield and Hartford had agreed in 1712-3 to run a due east line, for 170 rods from sd mere-stone, commonly called the Pennywise line, where a monument now is; also that place where the ancient P. P. Brook *was* is about one rod W. of a bunch of willows and 338 rods, on a straight line (east) from the east end of sd Pennywise line; . . . also, that the sd Pennywise line, and a line beginning at its east end and running east  $28^{\circ}$  S. 338 rods, crossing the *ancient* bed of the River twice, to the bound where P. Pot Brook’s mouth was—should be the div. line be-

tween Hartford & Wethersfield. The line, as thus described, was established by the legislature."

This Report is important, as showing that the N. E. corner of Wethersfield bounds was 305 rods ( $338+170-203=305$ ) from the west bank of the River; but little short of a mile. This shows what great changes had been wrought in the course of the River since the settlement of the town.

*East Line.* The eastern bounds (as the township was up to 1672 when the 5-mile extension was granted), were never fixed, notwithstanding a vote of Wethersfield in 1658, to run the N. and S. lines, and a similar vote in 1665-6. When Wethersfield was made to extend eastward five miles further than before, in 1672, it still remained bounded east by the "Wilderness," as before; and so continued until 1690, when the part east of the River was made a separate township; but, until the latter date, when the River became the dividing line—the east line of Wethersfield was never settled by metes and bounds.

Whether the stream, whatever changes might be wrought in the *filum aquae*, was understood to be and remain the jurisdiction line, is not certain. But these changes were so great and rapid, westward, that serious inconvenience soon resulted to the west side township, which has continued to be a sufferer therefrom ever since. It was for this reason, that, in 1767, Col. John Chester was chosen by Wethersfield to petition the General Assembly to "settle" the east line of the town, and "to prosecute the affair to effect." That body, in 1770, at the same time that it settled the north line—through the same committee mentioned above (Huntington, Burr and Adams), fixed the line as follows: "A line drawn from the said ancient P. Pot brook's mouth, running S.  $19^{\circ}$  E., to the N. end of a fence called Josiah Benton's fence, on Wright's Island, being near the middle of the Bed *where the River formerly run*, and then S.  $1^{\circ}$  W., to the Gr. River at the S. end of sd Island, and the sd River to the S. bounds of sd Wethersfield . . . which line from sd P. Pots brook's mouth to the S. end of sd Island, crosseth the Gr. River aforesaid twice, and keeps in the bed of sd River *as the same ran*." It was also provided that *private* rights should not be affected by the new line.

It will be seen from the foregoing, that the object of the legislature was simply to re-establish the *old* river line; consequently, where the river had *not changed* in its course, as from below Wright's Island to Middletown bounds—the line was not disturbed. It is also remarkable, that, on the N. and E. sides the jurisdiction line crossed the old river bed *five times*; for it was crossed once between the N. F. stone (where

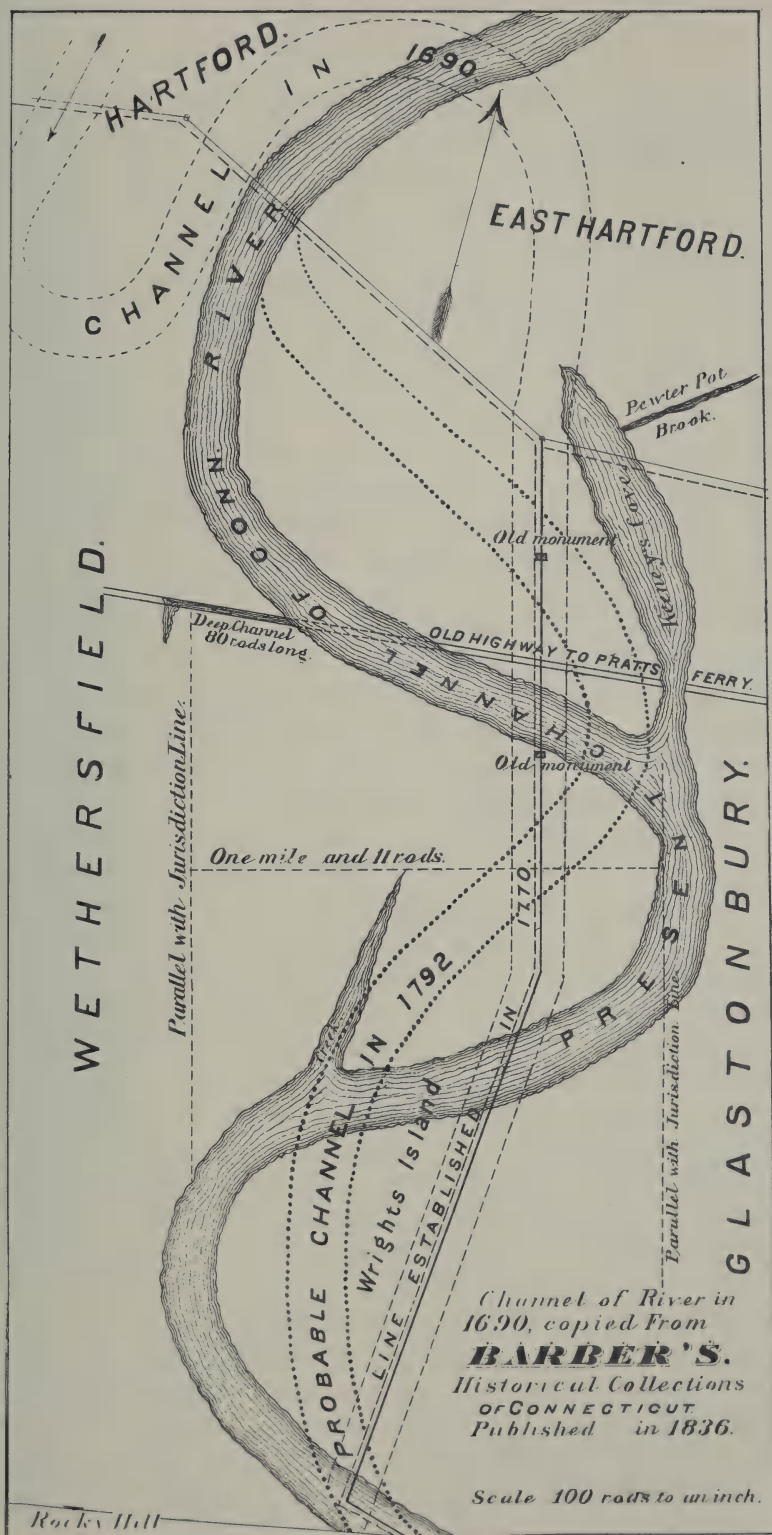


the course of the stream was S.) and the end of "Pennywise line," where the course was formerly N.

The next change of the E. line was in 1792, when, upon the petition of James Wright, the principal owner of Wright's Island, that tract of about 200 acres (then no longer, in fact, an island), was, by the legislature, annexed to Glastonbury—"so far as the said James Wright owns said Island." The effect of this Act was to make the river, as it was in 1792, the jurisdiction line, in that part of the stream opposite to Wright's Island, and on the W. side of it.

The effect of these several settlements of jurisdictional lines was to have part of Wethersfield on the E. side of the river (about 350 acres in 1870); and, below it, part of Glastonbury on the W. side; about 80 acres in 1870. And the land was "making" faster on the E. side, than on the west. Under these circumstances Glastonbury was desirous that the lands accruing on that side from year to year might be subject to *taxation* in that town. Accordingly in 1870, acting mainly through the Hon. Thaddens Welles and Thomas H. L. Talcott, Esq., *she* petitioned the legislature to make the river to be the dividing line. Wethersfield, very naturally opposed such action, and, through Welles, Adams and Elisha Johnson, Esq.—contested the matter in 1870, '71 and '73, successfully. The latter also brought suit in the Superior Court, to have lost bounds ascertained and old monuments restored. A committee of that Court made report in favor of a certain line, by metes and bounds, where they found it to have been in 1792. This line was satisfactory to *both* towns, so far as indicated by their votes in town meeting. But, Wethersfield in 1874, applying to the legislature to have this line established by a positive enactment, a new town meeting was called in Glastonbury, which resulted in a remonstrance to Wethersfield's petition. A bitter contest arose, in aid of which the "lobby" actively engaged; and as a final result (the legislature being evidently both tired and puzzled)—in 1874 provided:—That so much of Glastonbury as lies W. of the center of Connecticut River be set off to the town of Wethersfield; and so much of Wethersfield as lies E. of the center of Connecticut River, and S. of the jurisdictional line between E. Hartford and Glastonbury, prolonged to the center of Connecticut River, be set off to Glastonbury; and said River shall hereafter be and remain the boundary line between said towns.

The effect of this, was to substitute a shifting and transient line for one that was fixed and stable; but at the same time it ended, for the present, at least, a controversy that had become bitter and unprofitable. By this line Wethersfield lost its territory E. of the River, so far as the



ILLUSTRATIVE OF CHANGES IN THE CURRENT OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER, AND  
 OF CHANGES IN EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF WETHERSFIELD.



line W. of Glastonbury was involved; but there is still a tract, triangular in shape, N. of Glastonbury, in Hoccanum—not far from 120 acres—which remains in Wethersfield township. E. Hartford has, so far, not sought to obtain possession of this.

THE TOWN'S PATENT OF 1685. This instrument, similar in form to those granted to other towns, and to the Colony's Charter from Charles II, is dated February 17, 1685-6. It is signed by Robert Treat, Governor, for the Governor and Company in General Court assembled, "according to a commission granted to them by our late Sovereign Lord, King Charles II, of happy memory, in his Patent" (*i. e.* the Charter of 1662). The grant is to "Capt. Samuel Talcott, Capt. John Chester, Lieut. James Treat, Mr. Samuel Wolcott, Mr. John Deming, Sen., Mr. Robert Wells, Mr. John Robins, Mr. John Hollister, and Mr. Richard Smith, and the rest of the said present proprietors of the township of Wethersfield, their heirs and assigns forever." The *tenure* was recited to be "according to His Majestie's mannour of E. Greenwich. in the Co. of Kent, in the Kingdom of England, in free and common soccage, and not *in capite*; nor by Knight's service." This was practically a release from all rent or servitude; for the *soccage*, in this case, was a "fifth part of all the oare of gold and silver" thereafter mined "in lieu of all rents, services, dueties and demands whatsoever." This proportion of these minerals was the same as the Charter required the Colony to render to the Mother Country.

The *boundaries*, as set forth in this Patent, were as follows: "North by Hartford bounds, to begin at a tree marked N. E.; thence on a west line to meet Farmington bounds, on the west side of Connecticut River. On the east side of the River it begins at the mouth of Pewter Pot Brook & runs on an East line on that side full eight miles from the Great River. It abuts East on the Wilderness, and West on the bounds of Farmington, and on the South on Middletown bounds."

One of the grantees in the Patent, John Deming, Senr., was also a grantee named in the Great Charter. Another, Capt. Samuel Talcott, was a son of "The Worshipful" John Talcott, of the Charter; Lieut. James Treat was a son of Richard Treat, also a grantee of the Charter; Mr. Samuel Wolcott was a grandson of Mr. Henry Wolcott, of Windsor, and Mr. Robert Welles, a grandson of Gov. Thomas Welles, both Charter grantees; although the Governor had died before the Charter was granted. Capt. John Chester was a son of Leonard Chester, "Armiger"; Mr. John Robbins, probably a son of John Robbins, "Gentleman," one of the earliest settlers; Mr. John Hollister, a son of Lieut. John Hollister, a settler of distinction; Richard Smith, who



lived east of the River, was a man of wealth and son of Samuel Smith, the "Fellowmonger," who was one of the immigrants from Watertown.

The Wethersfield Patent is recorded in the *Weth. Land Records*, and also in the office of the Secretary of State, at Hartford.

LANDING PLACES—SHIP-YARDS—WHARVES—WAREHOUSES—FERRIES.—The first river landings were along the bank now forming the southerly and easterly shore of the Cove. For many years the town owned not only the beach, but the warehouses, if any there were upon it. Thomas Deming's (the first in Wethersfield) ship-yard was here.

It was likewise "voted [Sept. 22d, 1648]<sup>1</sup> that Tho. Demon, Ship Carpenter, should have a lot upon the Comon, by the Landing Place, to build a house on, or for a worke yard; and Leuiet. [James] Bosie and Nath. Dickinson was apointed set out this lot, that it might [not be an] anoiance to the Towne."

The first grant of land here, of record, is that of March 11th, 1661-2, to Mr. Samuel Welles, (a son of Gov. Tho. Welles), of a piece of land "upon the Common, at the Landing Place, to set up a Warehouse, and to now other use whatsoever." Mr. Welles lived on the corner now occupied by the heirs of William Hanmer, deceased.

The town next, in 1670-1, granted to Mr. John Chester "a piece of land by the waterside, to build a warehouse upon." This was at the same landing place. In the same year, his brother, Stephen, was given a piece, "of about 2 or 3 rods in breadth, next unto his brother's land, to build a *warehouse* upon." In 1672, Stephen Chester exchanged this piece, at the request of the town, for another "at the northeast side of that weh hee, the sd Chester, bought of Tho. Hurlbutt."

In December, 1672, the town being about to divide up the land on the east side of Rocky Hill—provided that: "five accors the towne reserves for a landeing place." In the agreement signed by Joseph Smith, at the same time, wherein he was given 20 acres of land adjoining thereto—it was provided that: "ther shall be five acres of land left for the public use of the towne in generall, or for any of the inhabitance in prtickuler, for a comon landing place, or for *bulding shipes*, or other vessels." This tract, which has been used as a ship-yard, ferry-way, landing, etc., now belongs to the Town of Rocky Hill.

In December, 1683, the town gave Mr. Timothy Hyde a piece of land forty feet square, for a *warehouse* site, "below Mr. Stephen Chester's warehouse." In August, 1689, a piece "thirty foot square, on ye Comon, one ye bank of ye Great River, below Mr. Stephen Chester's

<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, Vol. I., p. 30.

warehouse," was given to Joseph, son of Rev. Joseph Rowlandson, for a warehouse.

In December, 1691, the town gave Mr. Nicholas Morecock "a piece of land on ye bank of ye Great River, near Mr. Stephen Chester's warehouse, about fourty foot square, to build a *warehouse* on." Also "liberty to build a *wharf* in ye sd River, against his warehouse, provided he always leaves a convenient highway, for men, cattell or teams, to pass between sd wharf & warehouse; and also that the sd wharf shall be free for all the inhabitants of this town, from time to time." In this vote the word "wharf" seems to occur for the first time on the records.

The subsequent change in the course of the River must have prevented any further occasion for wharves at this place, after this time. But, the ship-yard (elsewhere referred to) was continued here long after the Cove had taken the place of the River at this point.

*Wharves.* See some account of these under the title "Landing Places." For many years past, the only wharves at Wethersfield have been situated upon the west bank of the River, east of High Street, a strip a few feet wide, of the remnant of the Great Meadow at this point and a highway (now under the River) intervening. The oldest of these wharves have disappeared by the encroachment thereon of the River bed. The present wharf, to the south of the ancient meadow road leading down to the River, at this point, was constructed by, and is the property of the Wethersfield Wharf Co., a corporation organized in 1860. The wharves which preceded it, to the north a few rods, were private property.

No wharves existed on the east side of the River in Wethersfield prior to the formation of the Town of Glastenbury. At Rocky Hill, wharves have long been in existence, as private property, upon the public landing places.

What caused these marked changes, which have been wrought in the river's course since Wethersfield's first settlement, it is not easy to say. But, we can understand, that at the turn mentioned as being in the vicinity of the State Prison ("The Cove"), the stream encountered the bed of red sandstone shale underlying the meadow soil there and now known as "The Rocks," an obstruction sufficiently potent to hinder it from cutting across southeasterly. The other bends have simply above Rocky Hill Ferry than now.

*Warehouses.* This was the name which the town gave to what would now be called storehouses, by the water-side. A list of such is given under the title "Landing Places." For copies of these grants for Ship-yards—Landings—Wharves—Warehouses see *Appendix IX*.

*Ferries.* It is impossible to fix the date at which the first Ferry at Wethersfield was established. There was undoubtedly *occasional* transportation of cattle and teams at this point very soon after 1640; but rafts may have been used for that purpose, or much of the crossing may have been on the ice. It is certain that great oars, or, technically speaking, sweeps, were instruments of propulsion. Probably pirogues, or, as they were commonly called—"periaugers," (moved by wind), were in use here, as they certainly were elsewhere. The last ferryboat in Wethersfield (Old Society), was propelled by hand-power; a wire, lying across the bed of the River, and made fast at each end, being used to pull the boat from side to side. The only ferryboat now in use (in what is now Rocky Hill), is propelled by steam; but a few years ago, the motive power was horses; they operating on the tread-mill principle. Horsepower was first authorized, by Statute, in 1835. The place of the first ferry seems to have been at, or very near, the site of the now discontinued Pratt's ferry. Richard Smith, Jr., is the first ferryman mentioned in Wethersfield records. In February, 1673-4, Richard Smith, Jr., was authorized by the town: "to keepe a Ferry ouer the Great River, in New London road; and to give entertainment to strangers and travellers in the same road, as occasion may serve."—*W. T. V. I.* p. 111.

There were three Richard Smiths in Wethersfield at this time; and much confusion exists as to the separate identification of them. Richard Smith, Jr., the ferryman and tavern keeper in question, was the Richard Smith from Pequett (New London); the "weaver," as Wethersfield records call him. The latter came to Wethersfield, about 1656, probably, as he was admitted an "inhabitant" of Wethersfield in February, 1656-7. Richard Smith, Sen., was in Wethersfield some years earlier, as he had a house and shop there in 1649. This Smith ferry, afterwards became known as Pratt's Ferry.

The *first* ferry *may* have been run by Lieut. John Hollister, who owned one of the lots traversed by the New London road for several years subsequent to 1644; or by Mr. Richard Treat, who owned another of the lots for years subsequent to 1641. Both these gentlemen were energetic, and possessed of abundant means.

In January, 1650, a highway was established from Rocky Hill to "Nayog Farmes," now South Glastonbury; but it is not likely that a ferry between the two places existed at this early date.

In October, 1712, Richard Keney, of Hartford, was granted the right to keep a ferry "at, or near, the bounds between Hartford and Weathersfield." This is the first mention of Keney's ferry, which we

shall refer to further on. He removed from this about 1717—succeeded by Benoni and Timothy Smith.

In 1722, Richard Smith, of Glastonbury, informed the General Assembly that he had kept Smith's ferry, at the north part of Glastonbury, for many years; and that a neighbor was seeking to establish a rival ferry, to his (Smith's) injury, one-half mile further north. Who that "neighbor" was may be inferred from a certificate of the Wethersfield Selectmen, to the effect that Benoni and Timothy Smith had a good ferryboat, "well fitted with oars"; and that they desired to keep a ferry "in the most convenient place in all the Town," where others have kept one, "for many years' time." It is probable that two ferries were kept running for some years; but, in 1736, Tho. Sparks is called the keeper of "the Ferry at Glastenbury."

In May, 1724, Jonathan Smith, of Rocky Hill, was authorized by the General Assembly to "set up a Ferry across Connecticut River" at that point. This is the first mention I find of the southernmost ferry at Wethersfield. In 1728, he had become too old to manage it longer, and, at his request, the franchise was conferred upon his son, Nathan. In May, 1734, Nathan Smith being dead, Hezekiah Grimes was chosen ferryman. Daniel Clark wanted, but did not obtain the grant.

In May, 1745, Manoad Smith was declared, by the General Assembly, to be the lawful keeper of the ferry between Glastonbury and Wethersfield. I suppose this to be the same which, in 1746 and 1748, was called "Smith's" ferry; when new rates of toll were established. Manoad's father, Benjamin, and his grandfather, Richard, ran the same ferry.

Timothy Smith was granted a ferry, "at, or near, the southern end of Hartford," in 1745; which continued for some years. I suppose this to have been in Wethersfield and Hockanum. It is probably the same ferry which, in October, 1712, and in May, 1737, the General Assembly called "Keeney's," in Hartford. For in May, 1753, Samuel Buck, of Wethersfield, was the Keeper of "Keeney's" ferry near the north end of the Town. Buck lived at the north end of High Street; and at this date the General Assembly allowed him to discontinue "Keeney's" ferry, and establish another "about a mile above the said Keeney's, and near the house of the said Samuel Buck." It was from its proximity to Keeney's ferry that "Keeney's Cove," opposite Wethersfield, on the east side of the River, took its name.

In May, 1754, Richard and Jeduthan Smith were appointed keepers of "Smith's ferry. In May, 1762, Daniel Pratt, of Glastonbury, complained that these Smiths had, without his knowledge, obtained the

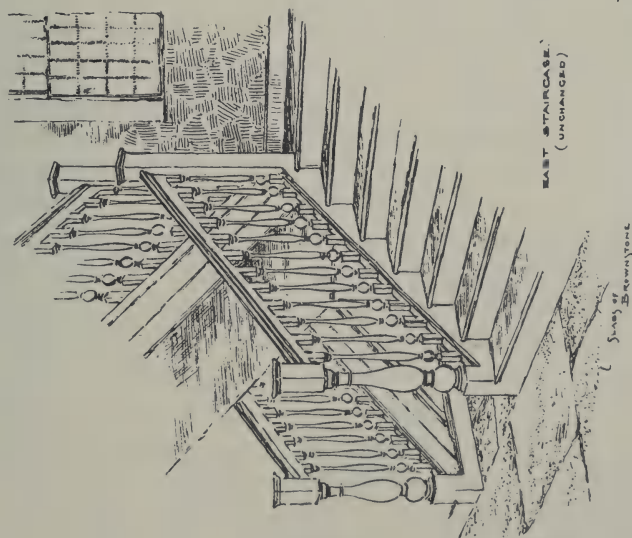


right to run this ferry, notwithstanding that he had built a ferry-house, "there being no other near said ferry," and that he, instead of the Smiths should have the exclusive right to manage it. The General Assembly decided in Pratt's favor; and hence arose the name "Pratt's Ferry."

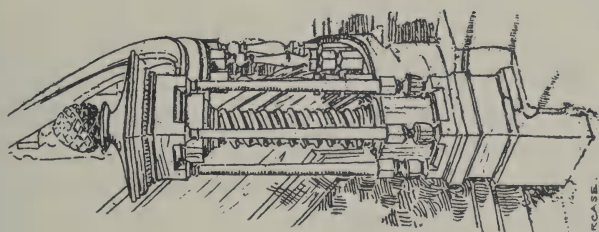
In January, 1774, the Selectmen of Wethersfield were granted control of the ferry "at the head of High street," lately tended by Abraham Butler. In 1785, a town vote refers to a then proposed highway in the Great Meadow, along the River's bank—as extending from Capt. Burnham's "to Draper's ferry." This must have been a name temporarily given to Pratt's ferry; or to one very close to it.

In 1783, as appears from the Statutes of that year, ferryboats were required to be operated by "suitable oars"; which I suppose to have been what are technically called "sweeps." At this time three ferries at Wethersfield were recognized by law. One of these was called the "Rocky Hill" ferry; another, "Glastonbury"; the third, "Keney's." Glastonbury ferry was the old Smith's, afterward Pratt's; while Keney's, the most northerly, was near the present steamboat landing, and connected with the road across Keney's Cove. All these ferries continued for many years; but, from the fact that the fare at Pratt's was fixed at a lower rate than at either of the others, and from other indications—it is inferred that most of the travel was by this ferry. In 1792, Manoah and David Pratt were appointed its keepers.

All these ferries are mentioned in the Statutes as late as the Revision of 1866; but it is well known that both Pratt's and Keney's had been abandoned many years before; probably Keney's first. In 1847, upon the petition of Lemuel Humphrey and others, Keney's, notwithstanding a vigorous opposition from both Glastonbury and Wethersfield, was re-established. The boat was pulled across by the wire-system mentioned above. After a few years it was again abandoned, and has not been revived.

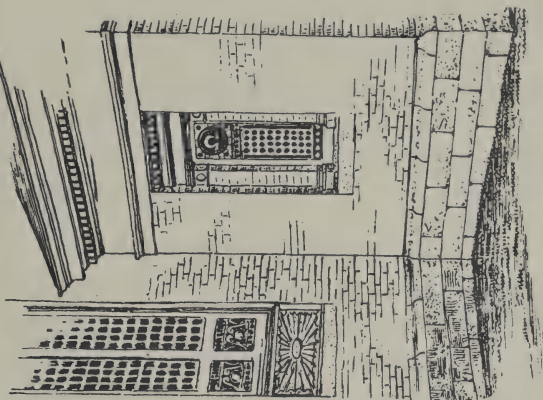


EAST STAIRCASE.  
(UNCHANGED)



TOWER STAIRCASE.  
(NEW) — 644

WEST SIDE OF SOUTH PORCH (NEW)



ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS—FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, WETHERSFIELD.



### CHAPTER III.

#### *Church Beginnings—Church Dissensions—Consequent Secessions and Emigrations From Wethersfield.*

[BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ.]

**C**HURCH BEGINNINGS.—The settlement of Wethersfield differed from that of its sister towns, Hartford and Windsor, in this respect, that unlike theirs, it was not made by a church organization coming hither from Massachusetts, under its pastor and church officers. In this case, while there were a number of the Wethersfield settlers (perhaps a majority) who were members of Rev. Mr. Phillip's church at Watertown, there was, properly and legally speaking, *no church* of Christ, and *no church parish* in the plantation for over a year after its first settlement. When it was formed in the Spring of 1636, it was through the action of six men, members of the Watertown (Mass.) church, from which, however, they had, up to this time, received no formal dismission. As soon, probably, as the exigencies and cares of effecting a new settlement permitted, these six men, mindful of the duty incumbent upon them in this respect, seem to have sought from the Commission then governing the Connecticut "plantations," the privilege of forming a church in Wethersfield. This permission was formally granted, and the names of the intending church members given, by the Court, at its session at Newtown (Hartford) April 26th, 1636, as follows: "Whereas, there was a dismission granted by the C [hurch] of Watertown in the Massachusetts, dated 29 M[arch] last to Andrew Warde, Jo. Sherman, Jo. Strickland, Rob'te Coe [Coe], Rob'te Reynolds & Jonas Weede, w<sup>th</sup> intent to forme anewe in a Church Covennte in this River of Conneticott, the sade p<sup>r</sup>ties have soe accordingly done with the publick allowance of the reste of the members of the saide Churches, as by certificate now p<sup>r</sup>duced app<sup>r</sup>s. It is, therefore, in this p<sup>r</sup>sent Court ratified & confirmed, they p<sup>r</sup>missing shortlie publicquely to renew the [saide] covennte upon notice to the rest of the Churches."

It seems most strange to us, that of all the early settlers of the town, *some* should not have joined the nucleus of a church thus formed, either by letter from the Watertown church, of which they were members, or upon confession. But, that they did not, is evident from the fact that Winthrop, writing three years later, in the summer of 1639, specifically mentions its membership as then being but *seven*; and that even



that little handful were divided amongst themselves. This *seventh* member may have been the Rev. Richard Denton, who came from Watertown, Mass., in 1638. The total absence of any church records during the first sixty-two years of its existence leaves us in complete ignorance of Wethersfield's religious history during that period, except what can be scantily gleaned from the town votes (since 1647); the Colonial Records, and incidental mention in the works of the early New England historians. So we know not who ministered to this little flock; only that of its "charter membership," so to speak, the Rev. John Sherman and the Rev. Richard Denton were ministers of the Gospel, and were probably the first to conduct public services and divine offices in Wethersfield. If so, the feeble church must have been fed with good spiritual food according to the estimate of that day, if we may judge of the abilities of these men, which has come down to us from Mather and others. Rev. Henry Smith was here, also, perhaps as soon as Denton. Surely there were ministers enough in Wethersfield, perhaps (is it charitable to suggest it?) *too many*. Perhaps, the fault lay not with the clergy at all. For, Clement Chaplin, the proud and wealthy "Ruling Elder," had settled here in 1636—of whom we shall have more to say anon—in connection with Wethersfield's first *settled* pastor, Rev. Henry Smith.

CHURCH DISSENSIONS.—Whatever the origin, or the *animus* of the trouble, we find Winthrop, of Plymouth, jotting down in his *Journal*, I. pp. 367, 368, in the summer of 1639, that:

"The rent at Connecticut grew greater, notwithstanding the great pains which had been taken for healing it; so as the church of Wethersfield itself was not only divided from the rest of the town, etc., [the matter had evidently grown beyond the bounds of a mere church quarrel], but, *of those seven which were the church*, four fell off; so that it was conceived, that thereby the church was dissolved, which occasioned the church of Watertown here [*i. e.*, in Mass.] (which divers of their members there, not yet dismissed) to send two of their church to look after their members, and to take order with them. But the contention and alienation of minds were such, as they could not bring them to any other accord than this, that the one party must remove to some other place, which they both consented to, but still the difficulty remained; for those three, who pretended themselves to be the church, pleaded that privilege for their stay, and the others alleged their multitude, etc., so as neither would give place, whereby it seemed, that either they minded not the example of Abraham's offer to Lot, or else they wanted Abraham's spirit of peace and love."

"This controversy having called in Mr. Davenport and others of Quilipiack [New Haven], for mediation, and they not according with those of Connecticut, about the case, gave advantage to Satan to sow some seeds of contention between those plantations also; but, being godly and wise men on both parts, things were easily reconciled." (See also Trumbull's *Hist. Conn. I.*, 120.)

CONSEQUENT SECESSIONS AND EMIGRATIONS FROM WETHERSFIELD.—As human nature is constituted, church quarrels must needs be—and this was evidently—a very pretty sample of the kind. It was settled, in the only way which it could ever have been settled; and in a way, which of itself, was of immense benefit to the rest of the Colony at large—by secessions which found (it is to be hoped) quiet homes in other and distant parts of the country. These emigrations were, probably, mainly due to three causes, *first* to that restlessness and desire to find "farther fields afresh," which always seems most pronounced in new settlements; *secondly*, to a desire to get away from the strife and bickerings about the church question, whatever it was, which was making their present home uncomfortable; *third*, perhaps, because some of them foresaw, from the incoming wave of immigration, that they would soon be, if they were not already, straitened for room for themselves—and so there commenced in the fall of this year, 1639, a series of emigrations, which soon caused the wilderness of Connecticut to bud and blossom from new tendrils put forth from the old vines, but shortly before transplanted from Old England.

[There is evidence, also, that thus early, Wethersfield men contemplated settlements at Uncoa (Fairfield) and Tunxis, otherwise called Unxus Sepus (Farmington). The General Court, in October of that year, had censured Roger Ludlow of Windsor for "taking up lands" at Uncoa (Fairfield,) and its disapproval of his doings was the result of a complaint addressed to it by "our neighbors of Wethersfield." Ludlow's right was to lands at Pequannock (near Bridgeport), and he had ventured to pass beyond, to the adjoining section, of Uncoa. He belonged, at that time, to Windsor, and his findings in the Uncoa region had, undoubtedly, awakened the desires of some of his fellow townsmen, as well as of some Hartford and Wethersfield men. There was, as we know from the history of Windsor (*Stiles' Windsor*, I, 75), just at that time, a very considerable "boom" (as we should now term it) in real estate in that town, which undoubtedly had spread to all of the "three River Towns." A number of new arrivals, in 1639, and rumors were rife of still larger accessions gave the prices of lands, especially of those which were in or near the

settlements and "improved," a decidedly upward turn. As a consequence, there was a marked impulse towards emigration, west and mostly southward, from the river towns. Ludlow and a few friends finally made their settlement at Uncoa. The General Court appointed a committee of two from each of the three towns, to view the country and report their conclusions—the members of this committee from Wethersfield were Robert Rose and James Boosey.<sup>1</sup> But when Tunxis,<sup>2</sup> later, was settled and became the Township of Farmington, the pioneers were mostly from Hartford and Windsor.—*H. R. S.*]

*Milford.*—To Wepowaug, in the summer and fall of 1639, an emigration ensued. Wethersfield people traversed the pathless wilderness and rested upon the banks of its river, upon land that had previously been deeded, by Ansantawae and other Indians, to William Fowler and four other gentlemen of the Quinnipiack plantation. Here and now was begun the settlement which, in 1642, possibly earlier, came to be known as *Milford*. A roll of the "Free Planters" of that settlement, dated November 20th, 1639, contains the names—among others—of the following Wethersfield immigrants:

Rev. Peter Prudden (pastor)	Richard Miles ( <i>Mills</i> )
John Fletcher	John Sherman (Rev.)
George Hubbard	Thomas Tapping ( <i>Topping</i> )
Thomas Ufford ( <i>Uffit</i> ) Sen.	Robert Treat

On the same roll occur the names of JOHN ROGERS, possibly a son of William Rogers, of Wethersfield. JOHN FOWLER is, by some, supposed to have gone from Wethersfield, but of this we are not certain.

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<sup>1</sup> Note.—"Jan. 16, 1639, Mr. Governe<sup>r</sup> informed the Court that the occasion of calling them together att this tym was about the importunity of o<sup>r</sup> neighbors of Wethersfield, who desired to have some answere to their request concerning Uncoa, and therevpon he related that himselfe with Mr. Wells, according to the order of the Court, went thither, and took a view of what had been done by Mr. Ludlowe there, and vppon due consideration of the same they have thought fitt vppon Mr. Ludlowe's consenting to the tearmes propounded by them; to confirm the same." (*Conn. Col. Rec.* I., 41.)

"It is ordered, both for the satisfaction of these of Htfd. & Windsore, who formerly mooved the Court for some inlayment of accommodation and also for o<sup>r</sup> neighbors of Wethersfield, who desire a plantation there, that Mr. Phelps, Mr. Hill, Thomas Scott, William Gibons, Robert Rose and James Boosey shall as soon as with any conveniency may be, view these parts by Tunxus Sepus w<sup>ch</sup> may be suitable for those purposes and make report of their doings to the Court, wch is adjourned to that end to the 20th of Febr atte 10 of the clocke in the morning." (*Conn. Col. Rec.* I., pp. 41, 42, 52.)

<sup>2</sup> Or, *Tunxis-Sepus*—Spelled (probably its full form of pronunciation) *Tunkseaspase*, in description, of lds. of James Cole.—Feb., 1639, *Htfd. Town Rec.*, I., 201. It seems to have been the Indian name of Farmington.

These pioneers were shortly afterward followed by ROGER PRICHARD (or "Prigiott"), FRANCIS NORTON, JOHN ELSÉN (or Ellison, sometimes Alsen), and, probably, JONATHAN LAW, afterwards Governor of the Colony. We can not, in this place, give any extended notice of these gentlemen, but must refer our readers to our Genealogies in Vol. II.

MR. PRUDDEN, who now became pastor of the Milford flock, was born at Edgton, Yorkshire, in 1601; educated for the ministry and ordained in England; and preached a while in Yorkshire and Hertfordshire, before coming to this country, July, 26, 1637. He was a brother-in-law of John Rogers, whose sister Joanna, he had married; arrived at Boston, 2 July, 1637, from whence, in March, 1638, he sailed for New Haven. He never had any landed interest in Wethersfield. Indeed, he may be said to have been rather an inhabitant of Quinnipiack than Wethersfield, for he went to the former plantation, from Boston, in 1638. He preached in New Haven, at times; in 1639, he seems to have been an assistant to Rev. Mr. Davenport, he being then about thirty-nine years of age, while Mr. D. was three or four years his senior. He was installed at Milford, April 18, 1640, and died there, July, 1656. Cotton Mather describes him as "an example of piety, gravity, and boiling zeal against the growing evils of the times, yet possessed of a singular faculty to sweeten, compose and qualify exasperated spirits, and to stop or heal all contentions. His death was felt by the Colony, as the fall of a pillar, which made the whole fabric shake." His widow m. (2) ——— Willets, possibly the first Mayor of New York City; m. (3) Rev. John Bishop of Stamford, where she died, 1681.

REV. JOHN SHERMAN, with his brother, SAMUEL, and his father, EDMOND (or Edward) had been householders in Wethersfield. They probably came from Watertown, Mass., together, and with them "Capt." JOHN SHERMAN, a cousin of Rev. JOHN. At Milford, he was chosen "teacher" to Mr. Prudden's church, being at that time but twenty-six years of age; but declined. He was a graduate of Cambridge University and came from Dedham, England, where he was born December 26, 1613. At Watertown, he had been an assistant of Mr. Phillips, the pastor there. His learning and eloquence led to his recall from Milford to Watertown; and upon Mr. Phillips' death, in 1644, he became his successor. If the verbose and sometimes inaccurate Cotton Mather is to be believed, he was the father (by two wives) of twenty-six children. He died 8 August, 1685.



Mather's lines, the Latin of which is smoothly rendered by Robinson, are as follows:

“ In Sherman's lowly tomb are lain  
The heart of Paul and Euclid's brain.”

Senator John Sherman and Gen. William T. Sherman are among his descendants, and Hon. Roger Sherman, one of Connecticut's great men, was descended from Capt. John Sherman.

New Haven shares, with Wethersfield, the distinction of having founded the plantation at Wepowaug—*Milford*.

*New Haven*, or as it was known prior to 1640, Quinnipiack, or Quillipiack, was begun in 1638; and to its original settlers Wethersfield contributed:

Lieut. Robert Seeley	John Gibbs
John Evans, Gentleman	Richard Gildersleeve
Abraham Bell, and perhaps his son	John Livermore
Francis Bell	Richard Mills ( <i>Miles</i> )
John Clarke	

GIBBS, GILDERSLEEVE and LIVERMORE had been neighbors at Wethersfield, on the west side of High Street; SEELEY lived on the east side of Broad Street; MILLS on the north side of Sandy Lane; BELL and EVANS were neighbors on Bell Lane, as it was then called. With the exception of Bell, Evans and Seeley, it is probable that these persons removed to New Haven later than 1638; some as late as 1640-1.<sup>1</sup>

*Guilford*.—Of the original settlers at Mennunkatuck, in 1639, named Guilford in 1643, it is not certain that any were from Wethersfield. In its list of forty planters, we recognize no Wethersfield names. John Fowler is said to have been from Wethersfield, but he first arrived in Guilford in 1648, and was then from Milford.<sup>2</sup> GEORGE HUBBARD, of Guilford in 1648, and thereafter, from Milford, where he had gone from Wethersfield in 1639, leaving his sons John and Samuel in Wethersfield. Andrew Ward, who died in Guilford in 1691, was a son of Andrew, the Wethersfield and Stamford settler, but he lived in Killingworth before going to Guilford. Thomas Griswold, of Wethersfield, did not remove to Guilford until 1695.<sup>2</sup> Edward Benton, 1651, and John Graves, 1657-8, could hardly have been the

<sup>1</sup> Reciprocally, Wethersfield rec'd from New Haven several important accessions in the person of Sgt. Richard Beekley.—Eleazer Kimberly, the Secretary, son of Thomas of New Haven, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Ralph Smith's *Hist. Guilford*. S. W. A. Doubts this.

persons bearing the same names in Wethersfield, but they may have been of Wethersfield origin. So, possibly, were Richard Goodrich, 1639; Benjamin Wright, 1646; Thomas Betts, 1649; Richard Bristow, 1650.

*Stratford*.—To Cupheag and Poquolack, which adjoined it on the west, a few white people made their way in 1639. It is claimed by some that the settlement was begun in 1638, but this hardly seems true, since the first purchase from the Indians there, was made in 1639. These two sections constituted what, in 1643, was named Stratford; being now partly in Stratford and partly in Bridgeport. Men from Wethersfield in 1639-40, went directly to Cupheag; or, removed thither from Milford or Stratford, or other places to which they had first gone. A list of Stratford land owners, in 1652 (in *State Archives*, Sec'y of State's office, Hartford), contains the names of some of them. ROBERT COE, afterwards of Hempstead, L. I., THOMAS UFFORD, son of the Thomas at Milford; THOMAS SHERWOOD, JOHN THOMPSON and SAMUEL SHERMAN, all householders in Wethersfield, were among the number. JOHN WELLES, eldest son of Gov. Thomas Welles was also there; where he died in 1659. Another JOHN WELLES was there from Wethersfield, a son of Hugh of Hartford, and was born in Wethersfield, in 1648. In 1669, "Mr." SAMUEL SHERMAN and his son JOHN were in Stratford, whither they had removed from Milford, after leaving Wethersfield. ROBERT ROSE, son of Robert of Wethersfield and Branford, was also there. Whether Robert Clarke, Francis Hall, Richard Butler and John Curtis were from Wethersfield is not altogether clear. There was a John Curtis at Wethersfield, owner of a home lot, prior to 1640. Perhaps, a brother of Thomas.<sup>1</sup>

*Fairfield*.—This settlement, known as Uncoa, or Uncoway, was begun in 1639, and received its present name in 1645-6. Though Wethersfield men seem to have early had it in view (see p. 135), it is doubtful if they were largely among its first settlers. Among those living here in 1655, were Thomas Sherwood, Thomas Morehouse, Daniel Finch and William Hill. Morehouse and Finch had first been at Stamford and Stratford, after leaving Wethersfield. William Ward, ancestor of the late Col. James Ward of Hartford, and son of Andrew the Wethersfield settler, were also there. Hill is not to be confounded with the William Hill, or Hills (perhaps his father), who lived in Hartford and at Hockanum. It is probable that some of these were settlers here before the name of Fairfield was formally adopted.

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<sup>1</sup> Orcutt's *Hist. Hartford*.

*Saybrook.*—In the vicinity of the old Fort, being that part of the township known as Pasbeshauke, or Pattaquesset, were two Wethersfield settlers, at least, in the first year of its settlement, 1638, viz.: Lieut. ROBERT SEELEY and Mr. JOHN CLARKE. Seeley, who had been second in command in the great Pequot fight of 1637, had the same year been placed in command of the Fort. He sold his home in Broad Street, Wethersfield, to Matthew Mitchell, who came thither, from Saybrook in 1637. Clarke, one of the most valuable men in the colony, sold his place in Broad Street to John Robbins, Gentleman, in October, 1638. Mr. John Wastoll (or Westall or Wessell) a commissary of supplies for the Indian campaigns, came to Saybrook, from Wethersfield, very early, but, probably, *not permanently*, until 1657, when he sold his property in Wethersfield to John Harrison.

*Stamford*—*The Earliest Secession from the Wethersfield Church.*—We come now to a period (1640), when Wethersfield lost, by the emigration of the followers of the Rev. Richard Denton, the largest number that had ever separated in one body, from its jurisdiction. We refer to the emigration to Toquams, as it was called in 1640, or Rippowams, as it was afterwards more generally called, until 1642, when it was christened Stamford. Capt. Nathaniel Turner, in behalf of New Haven Township, had purchased, July 1, 1640, “the plantation called Toquams;” and on the 30th of October, 1640, certain people of Wethersfield had deputed two of their number, Andrew Ward and Robert Coe, to “treat with the Court at New Haven” about “planting” the same. That Court, on the 4th of November, 1640, gave to the Wethersfield men the right to occupy the lands in question, which was a section traversed by the river, then called Rippowams, near Mill River. There was a condition attached to the privilege, which was that these grantees should repay to New Haven the £33 she had expended on account of Toquams;<sup>1</sup> and that the proposed new settlement should join with New Haven “in the form of government” in the same manner as had been agreed between New Haven and Mr. Samuel Eaton “about the plantation of Totoket.” New Haven reserved for one year the right to one-fifth part of the lands, to be settled by people of her own choice.

It must have been in the spring of 1641, when Mr. Denton, with a considerable flock, quitted Wethersfield for Rippowams. He was a

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<sup>1</sup> One of the first acts passed by the Town of Stamford was the following “whereas, the purchase of the plape and viewing of it was first done by our friends of New Haven, and we stand indebted to them for it, *It is Ordered*, that one hundred bushels

graduate of Cambridge in 1623; and came from Halifax, England, in 1638 or '39, and probably came directly to Wethersfield, being then about fifty years of age. Here he evidently intended to remain, as he became the owner of several tracts of land in the township; and had a home on the west side of Rose Lane, near the present site of S. W. Robbins' store.

With Denton there went to the Rippowams country not only a *majority* of the Wethersfield church; but, probably, a majority of the Wethersfield householders. They were:

Robert Bates (Betts)	Daniel Finch
Francis Bell	John Finch
Samuel Clark	Richard Guildersleve
Robert Coe	Jeremy Jagger (Gager)
Richard Crabbe	John Jessup (Jessiope)
Richard Denton (Rev.)	Richard Law
Jeffry Ferris	John Miller

of corn, at three shillings a bushel, be paid toward it, when raised, and sent them, as followeth, by Matthew Mitchell, viz.:

The *Stamford Hist.* pp. 17, 18; gives the following list, from *S. Town Recs.*, of those who signed an agreement (1640-1) to begin settlement at Rippawams (Stam.) "16th May next, and have their families there by last of November, 12 months," and the amt. paid by each toward the purchase of the land. It is interesting to us, in view of their having been Wethersfield men, as showing their relative means and social standing both in their old and new home.

Names,	bu.	p.	Acr.	Names,	bu.	p.	Acr.
Rev. Denton .....	4	1	14	Ri. Cook .....	3	1	10
Sgt. Ma. Mitchell .....	14	3	28	Ro. Bates .....	3	1	10
Thur. Rainor .....	5	3	20	Jo. Whitmore .....	3	1	10
Rob <sup>t</sup> Coe .....	4	1	14	Jo. Reynolds .....	3	2	11
And. Ward .....	4	1	14	Jeff. Ferris .....	10	acr.	10
Rich. Gildersleeve .....	4	0	13	Thos. Marshall .....	7	acr.	7
Edm. Wood .....	2	2	7	Thos. Weekes .....	2	2	6
Jo. Wood .....	2	2	7	Jon. Wood, H. ....	2	3	5
Jer. Wood .....	2	1	6	Jer. Jagger .....	2	2	7
Sam. Clarke .....	2	2	7	J. Jesiop .....	2	0	5
(In another list)				Jo. Seaman .....			6
Ri. Law .....	3	2	11	Sam. Sherman .....	3	1	10
Fr. Bell .....	2	2	7	Hen. Smith .....	1	3	3
Thos. Morehouse .....	2	1		Vincent Simkins .....	1	3	3
Ro. Fisher .....	2	0	5	Dan. Finch .....			9
Jo. Seaman .....	1	3	5	Jo. Northend .....	2	2	8
				Dan Finch .....	9		9

Of these men, 28 went to Stam. in summer of 1641; but in Oct. (19?) they were all warned to "come in" [to Wethersfield?] "to choose rulers" and they chose Mr. Denslow, Matthew Mitchell, And. Ward., Thurston Raynor and Rich. Cook, as a provincial government for their new home at S. In Nov. they made a second election of men "to order town occasions" and chose those above ment. and in addition, Jo. Whitmore, Rich. Lem and "Mr." D. F. [Daniel Finch?].



Matthew Mitchell	Andrew Warde
Thomas Morehouse	Jonas Weede
John Northend	John Whitmore
Thurston Raynor	Thomas Wickes (Weekes)
John Reynolds	Edmond Wood
John Seaman	Jeremy Wood
Samuel Sherman,	Jonas Wood
(brother of Rev. John)	Jonas Wood, Jr.
Vincent Simkins (?)	Jonas Wood, 3d "O"
Henry Smith (son of Samuel)	Francis Yates

Their departure from Wethersfield, left not only the town, but the church sadly depleted of members and influence. Prof. Johnston (*Hist. Conn.*) says: "The church of Wethersfield, when it split (1640-1) and the defeated party removed to Stamford, numbered but *seven* communicants; the orthodox numbering *four*, and the *heterodox* minority *three*." *It is supposed that the church and the town records went with the secedants.*

Up to 1643, these thirty-three names comprised a majority of *all* the settlers of Stamford. Nearly every one had been a householder and landed proprietor in Wethersfield, and their removal caused a large amount of real estate to change hands.<sup>1</sup> We will not, at this point, attempt to trace the history of these pioneers; but will mention a few facts in connection with some of them—see Huntington's *History of Stamford, Conn.*, for some notices of them.

Of the Rev. RICHARD DENTON, Mather, in his *Magnalia*, thus speaks: "A pious and learned man, who having watered Halifax in England, with his fruitful ministry, was by a tempest then hurried into New England, where, first at Wethersfield, and then at Stamford, his doctrines dropped as the rain, his speech distilled as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, as the showers upon the grass. Though he was a little man, yet he had a great soul; his well accomplished mind in his lesser body was an Iliad in a nut shell. I think he was blind of one eye, nevertheless, he was not the least among the *seers* of Israel; he saw a very considerable portion of those things, which 'eye hath not seen.' He was far from cloudy in his conceptions and principles of divinity, whereof he wrote a system, entitled *Soliloquia Sacra*, so accurately considering the fourfold state of man, 1st, in his Created Purity; 2nd, Contracted Deformity; 3rd, Restored Beauty; and 4th, Celestial Glory, that judicious persons who have seen it very much lament the churches being so much deprived of it. At length, he got

beyond the clouds, and so beyond storms; waiting the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of heaven, when he will have his reward among the saints."

Mather concludes his panegyric with one of the couplets he was so fond of bestowing upon his deceased ministerial brethern:

"Here Denton lies, his toils and hardships past,  
Whose name no memory of dishonor mars,  
On earth a light of faith, he shines at last  
Full orb'd and glorious with the eternal stars."

Mr. Denton, as leader of those of Stamford, who were not suited to live longer under the jurisdiction of the New Haven Colony, removed in 1644, to Hempstead, L. I., whence, in 1659, he returned to England, where he died in 1662 or '63 or '70, leaving four sons, of whom Richard and Nathaniel remained on Long Island.

Mr. MATHEW MITCHELL was originally from Halifax, England, and perhaps, the first town clerk of Wethersfield, was at this time, about fifty years of age. Next to Rev. Mr. Denton, he was probably the most important character among the Wethersfield emigrants to Stamford. But, despite his social standing and eminent character, he may truly be said to have been a "Son of Misfortune." Evil seemed to follow him all the days of his life, after his coming to New England. At Concord, Mass., he lost property by fire and otherwise; at Saybrook, Conn., he suffered much from depredations and annoyance from the Indians, who killed his son-in-law by torture and slew several of his farm hands;<sup>1</sup> and, when he sought peace by removal to Wethersfield, he there incurred the displeasure of the General Court by his acceptance of the office of Town Recorder to which his fellow citizens had elected him, as well as the personal animosity of Clement Chaplin, the Ruling Elder of the Wethersfield Church, which so embittered his life that he remained there only about two years. And, even after his removal to Stamford he was again displenished by the burning of his house, barn and goods, and overtaken by disease, from which he died May 19th, 1646, aged fifty-six years. He seems to have been worthy, energetic and able; and, at times, wealthy—but he probably broke down in

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<sup>1</sup> Lieut. Lyon Gardner's *Narrative of Events at Saybrook Fort, 1635-7*, gives a particular account of the attack made by Indians upon Mr. Mitchell and four of his men, whilst carrying hay in a boat, from Six-mile Island to the fort. This was early in October, 1636. In the spring of that year, he says, meeting a shallop of Mitchel's coming down the river, with two men in it, the Indians killed one at Six-mile Island; "the other came down, drowned, to us, ashore at our own doors, with an arrow shot into his eye, through the head."

health, fortune and spirits under the many disasters which befell him.<sup>1</sup> He resided in Wethersfield, on the southeast corner of Broad Street and Meadow Lane.

ROBERT COE, a son-in-law of Mitchell, was a prominent citizen and member of the Wethersfield Church. He was about forty years old when he came to Wethersfield from Watertown, in 1635, one of the seven men dismissed from the Watertown Church to form a church at Wethersfield. In 1644, he followed Mr. Denton from Stamford to Hempstead, L. I., and afterward removed to Jamaica, L. I., where he died, at 76 years.

ANDREW WARD, one of these "dismissed" from the Watertown Church to Wethersfield in 1635, was one of the magistrates from Stamford in the General Court; removed to Hempstead for a time; but finally, settled at Fairfield, where he died in 1659. Many of his descendants at Guilford and elsewhere, became distinguished; among whom may be mentioned Aaron Burr and Henry Ward Beecher.

RICHARD GILDERSLEEVE, from Watertown, followed Denton to Hempstead, where he was living as late as September 4, 1677, when, with Robert Coe, he signed an affidavit. He then called himself 77 years old.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Matthew Michael came into New England, in 1635, from Halifax, England; on his arrival he located himself in Charleston (Mass.) where he spent his first winter: Removing to the Town of *Concord*, his greater Matters gradually became smaller there, his *Beginnings* were there consumed by *Fire*, and some other losses befell him in the *Latter End* of that Winter. The next Summer he removed unto *Say-brook*, and the next Spring unto *Weathersfield* upon *Connecticut* River, by which he lost yet more of his Possessions and plunged himself into other troubles. Toward the close of that year he had a Son-in-law slain by the *Pequot Indians*; and the rest of the Winter they lived in much fear of their lives from these *Barbarians*, and many of his cattle were destroyed, and his estate unto the Value of some Hundred of Pounds was damnified. A *Shallop* which he sent unto the River's Mouth was taken, and burned by the *Pequots*, and three men in the vessel slain, in all of whom he was nearly concerned. So that, indeed, the *Pequot* scourge fell more on his family, than on any other in the land. Afterwards there arose unhappy *Differences* in the place where he lived, wherein he was an *Antagonist* against some of the *Principal Persons* in the place, and hereby, he, who hitherto *Lived in Previous Esteem with Good Men wherever he came* (as a Record I have seen testifies concerning him) now suffered much in his *Esteem* among many such men, as is usual in such contentions, and he met with many other injuries; for which causes, he transferred himself, with his interests, unto *Stamford*, in the Colony of *New Haven*. Here his home, barn and goods were again consumed by *Fire*; and much internal *distress of mind* accompanied these humbling dispensations. At last, *that most horrible of diseases*, the Stone, arrested him, and he underwent unspeakable dolours from it, until the year 1645, when he went unto his rest about the fifty-fifth year of his age."—Mather's *Magnalia*.

<sup>2</sup> Greenwich Records in *State Archives*. Sec'y State's office.

JONAS WOOD, Sen., ("Halifax" Jonas), was in Southampton, L. I., in 1654. In 1658 and as late as 1664, he was a Commissioner for Huntington, L. I. There were *three* Jonas Woods—all from Wethersfield; one was designated as Jonas Wood "O";<sup>1</sup> another as Jonas Wood "H"; and a third as Jonas Wood, "Jr." These have sometimes been confounded with each other, and with Jonas *Weed* of the same place. By a strange coincidence all went to Stamford; but, in 1658, Jonas Wood "O," and Jonas Wood "H" (probably cousins), were in Huntington, L. I., *together*; whilst, apparently, Jonas Wood, Jr., remained in Stamford.<sup>2</sup>

JONAS WEED, one of the "dismissed" from Watertown Church in 1635, is believed to have remained in Stamford, where he died in 1676. While in Wethersfield he lived on land now known as "the Point," between the Cove and the River.

JEREMY JAGGER, one of the Pequot soldiers from Wethersfield, died in Stamford in 1658. Jeremiah Jagger, Sen., and Junr., of Southampton, L. I., in 1698, were probably his descendants; also, some of the same surname in Wethersfield down to our own times.

JOHN JESSUP, afterwards of Westchester, 1664, probably died at Southampton, L. I., where he left descendants.

VINCENT SIMKINS' name is not found on Wethersfield records, but Huntington (*Hist. of Stamford*), credits him to this town.

DANIEL and JOHN FINCH, originally from Watertown, were brothers of the Abraham Finch, murdered in the Wethersfield massacre of 1637.

NORTHEND was one of the earliest settlers of Wethersfield; JOHN REYNOLDS probably removed from Stamford to Greenwich; WHITMORE, from Watertown and Wethersfield, was murdered by Indians at Stamford, in 1648; ROBERT BATES died in Stamford, in 1675. RICHARD CRABBE, first from Watertown to Wethersfield; then from Stamford to Greenwich, as early as 1656—and having become something of a Quaker, found himself in hot water much of the time thereafter. JEFFRY FERRIS remained in Stamford only a short time for, in July, 1640, he was one of the ten pioneer settlers at Monakewego, or Greenwich Point. He died in 1666. FRANCIS BELL, from Watertown to Wethersfield, is supposed to be the person from whom Bell Lane in Wethersfield, laid out before 1640, was named. He died, a "lieutenant," in Stamford, January 8, 1690-1. MOREHOUSE seems to

<sup>1</sup> Apparently the one who went to Stamford, as he is so designated in Gillespie's *Picturesque Stamford*, 1892, p. 33.

<sup>2</sup> *New Haven Col. Rec.*, II., 236-7.



have died in Stamford about 1658, but it is believed that the Morehouses of Southampton, L. I., in 1698, were his descendants. THOMAS WICKES, or Weeks, from Watertown (?) to Wethersfield, died in 1671, and was probably a resident, at one time, of Southampton, L. I. FRANCIS YATES went from Stamford to Hempstead, L. I., but was probably living in Westchester, in 1682. RICHARD LAW has been mentioned elsewhere; the earliest Stamford Town Records are in his handwriting. SAMUEL CLARK sold his house on the east side of Broad Street, Wethersfield, to John Robbins, Gentleman. JOHN MILLER should be included as a member of the Wethersfield colony to Stamford.

The depleted condition of Wethersfield's population, caused by this exodus to Stamford, will be better appreciated when we consider that the amusing question was afterwards raised, as to whether the Wethersfield Church was now *in Stamford*, or might be said to still remain in Wethersfield. For Mather says, that, when Rev. Denton went from Wethersfield, "he carried with him the *majority* of the *Church*, but a *minority* only of those not connected with the Church." And Huntington (*Hist. of Stamford*, p. 15), says, "The Church at Wethersfield had only *seven* voting members—six who came from Watertown and one who had joined there [*i. e.*, at Wethersfield]. Four were on one side in the controversy which had divided the people, and *three* on the other; but the latter constituted a majority of the community. As a peace measure, the majority of the church agreed to emigrate with the minority of the planters; while a majority of the planters *conceded them the right of taking with them the records*, and so transferring their church organization to the new field."

There seems to have been in this emigration, as in the later one of 1659 (to Hadley) a pretty muddle of personal, political, and ecclesiastical antagonisms, or influences at work—the "true inwardness" of which, after this lapse of time, is difficult to be understood. If the Church were decided to be where a majority of its members (not dismissed), were settled inhabitants, then Stamford, unquestionably contained the Wethersfield Church. But, the new settlement decided for itself, to organize as a new parish, with Rev. Mr. Denton for pastor—thus leaving Wethersfield at liberty to claim to be its own successor in the body ecclesiastical. Moreover, there still remained, in Wethersfield, many members of the *original* Society, such as

Samuel Boardman  
Richard Belden  
Leslie Bradfield  
James Boosey

Henry Palmer  
William Palmer  
Jasper Rollins (Rawlins)  
John Robbins, Gentleman

Robert Burroughs	Robert Rose
William Butler	John Saddler
Clement Chaplin	Samuel Smith, 1st
Leonard Chester	Samuel Smith, 2d
Josiah Churchill	John Stoddard
John Coltman	William Swaine, Gentleman
Thomas Coleman	Thomas Standish
Thomas Curtis	Lieut. Thos: Tracy
John Deming	Matthias Treat
Nathaniel Dickinson	John Tinker
Nathaniel Foote	Richard Treat
Robert Foote	Edward Vere
Nathaniel Foote, Jr.	Jacob Waterhouse
John Goodrich	Richard Westcott
William Goodrich	Thomas Wright
Thomas Hurlburt	Anthony Wright
John Kilbourn	Hugh Wells
John Nott	(and some others),

not as many as had been drawn away to Saybrook, New Haven, Milford, Stratford and Stamford; but still a community of considerable strength.

And these were to be re-enforced, within the next two or three years (perhaps, as early as 1640), by

Emmaunel Buck	Walter Hoyt
Ezekiel Buck	Timothy Hyde
William Comstock	Lewis Jones
Leonard Dix	John Latimer
John Edwards, and son	Andrew Longdon
Thomas Edwards	Thomas Lord
Robert Francis	Robert Parke
Nathaniel Graves	Thomas Parke
Philip Goffe	John Riley
Michael Griswold	Charles Taintor
Samuel Hale	John Wadhams
Thomas Hale (?)	Gov. Thomas Welles
John Harrison	Thomas Welles, 2d
Henry Haywood (Howard)	Mr. George Wolcott
Luke Hitchcock	and others
Lieut. John Hollister,	
from Weymouth, Mass.	

On the other hand, some were soon to emigrate to new settlements, as we shall presently see.

[*First Settled Pastor at Wethersfield.*—In 1641, after Prudden, Sherman and Denton had, one after another, ministered to the people, and had each passed away to more quiet fields of labor, Wethersfield, for the first time, became possessed of a *settled* minister in the person of the Rev. HENRY SMITH, who is described as “a gentleman of good family,” and one who, “as the patriarch of one of the best sustained and accomplished families in New England, is entitled to our regard as a gentleman of uncommon culture, refinement and firmness.” With his wife and several small children, he is supposed to have come hither in 1639, if not earlier—probably from Charlestown, Mass., where he had arrived in 1637,<sup>1</sup> from England. Whatever may have been his character and qualities, however, his life at Wethersfield was by no means a happy one, for there were still left some restless spirits among his church and congregation, and “from the very beginning of his ministry he was the victim of suspicions most unfounded and accusations the most bitter.” [Chief among his calumniators was Mr. Clement Chaplin, who seems to have come to Wethersfield from Hartford, in 1636, where he had been the “ruling elder”<sup>2</sup> of the Church since 1639, according to all indications. He was quite a large land-holder, and both he and Mr. Smith had lands allotted to them, on both sides of the River, in the general distribution of 1639.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> He and his wife were admitted to the communion of the Watertown (Mass.) church, Dec. 5th, 1637.

<sup>2</sup> “The ‘Ruling Elder’ represented that part of the executive power that did not fall specifically within the province of the pastor. He was a kind of vice-executive officer. His business was to keep strict watch over all the brethren and sisters, and see that they demeaned themselves in an orderly and Godly manner. It was his duty to warn the careless, admonish the wayward, and to present the incorrigible before the proper tribunal for discipline. He was also to go from house to house, like a ministering angel, and visit the sick and afflicted, and pray with them. In the absence of the pastor and teacher he was also to pray with the congregation on the Sabbath, and other stated days of worship, and expound the Scriptures to them.”—Hollister's *Hist. Conn.*, I., 449.

<sup>3</sup> Rev. Smith's earliest recorded date at Wethersfield is in 1639-40, when he shred in the division of lands on the east side of the Conn. River. The following Ct. record of Mch. 5, 1639, may refer to these lands; or, more probably to some land dispute between him and Ruling Elder Chaplin:

“Whereas a difference hath arisen between Mr. Smith and some others of Wethersfield about the measure of some ground weh being long debated it was thought fitt that it be referred to some indifferent men to view, and Mr. Wells and Mr. Webster are intreated by the Court, in the first and fittest season to goe downe to Wethersfield and to settle the same as in equity and justice they shall see fitt, that peace and truth may be continued. But it was judged very equall and reasonable, in regard Mr. Smith in setting up his posts proceeded in a legall and just way, that he be not put to the charge of taking up and setting downe his posts againe.”

Mr. Smith's house was on the corner bounded west by High Street and east by the Meeting-house square. Mr. Chaplin's was where the houses known as the Col. Webb and the Silas Deane houses now are; he owning the land now covered by both of them. Chaplin seems to have been something of a disturbing element in the Church and Town; for he quarreled with Matthew Mitchell, the Town Recorder in 1640; and, through the General Court, compelled that worthy gentleman to apologize publicly to him.<sup>4</sup> Chapin was, at this time, Colonial Treasurer, an office to which he had been appointed in February, 1637-8. In November, 1643, it was *his* turn to be treated as an offender, for the General Court fined him £10 "for divulging and setting his hand to a writing cauled a declaration, tending to the defamation of Mr. Smith," the minister. In 1643, so much difference existed between Mr. Smith and some members of his Church, that the General Court appointed a committee to take the matter "into serious and sadde consideration." Their report,<sup>2</sup> submitted April 13th of that year, finds the difference

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<sup>1</sup> The following Court Records throw a little light upon the difficulties in the Wethersfield church, and which led to so many emigrations to other places for the sake of peace and quietness.

At a General Court, at Hartford, April 5, 1640: Present, Edward Hopkins, Governor; John Hayes, Deputy Gov.; and the several magistrates and deputies, "Mr. Mitchell is returned Recorder for the Town of Wethersfield; but he is found incapable of the place, lying under the censure of the Court; and he and the town which chose him to that place are to have notice to appear at the next adjournment of the Court. They are to have liberty to bring in the Records of their lands until the General Court in September next.

At a General Court, at Hartford, June 11, 1640—(the same magistrates present) "If Mr. Mitchell shall give satisfaction to Mr. Chaplin, in some public meeting, as part of his censure, by acknowledging his fault, in such form and manner as he hath related to this Court, it is referred to the Particular Court to continue, or take off his former censure, as they shall see cause.

The said Mr. Mitchell for undertaking the office of Town Clerk or Recorder, notwithstanding his uncapableness of that office, by censure of the Court, he is fined to pay to the County twenty nobles.

That part of the Town of Wethersfield which chose the said Mr. Mitchell to office, notwithstanding the censure of the Court, are fined to the County five pounds.

At a Particular Court holden at Hartford, July 2, 1640. Mr. Mitchell hath this day returned into Court his acknowledgment to Mr. Chaplin; and for that, with other considerations for former extraordinary charges which he hath formerly borne for Public Service at the Fort [at Saybrook], the Court hath omitted his former censure."

<sup>2</sup> Court of Elections—13 April, 1643.

The copy of the opinion of the Committee vpon the Petition of those of Wethersfield.

The Petition of those of Wethersfield hath been taken into sadde and serious consideration, and we doe finde the distance and differences to be exceeding great, and some of them such as will necessarily require publique examination and cen-



to be "exceeding great"; and, whilst it exonerates, Mr. Smith, apparently, it recommends that he, in the interest of the "publique peace" "lay downe his place, if y<sup>t</sup> be done according to God." It also says, "We find, also, that many of those who put up their names for removal were not induced thereunto by any dislike or engagement they have in the present quarrels, but for *want of lotts and other considerations*." In November, 1643, the General Court itself cleared Mr. Smith from the unjust "accusations" against him "both in Church administration & in acting the civell occasions of the Towne"; and it proceeded to impose the following penalties upon the signers of the "declaration" above mentioned, and other acts in connection therewith—Clement Chaplin, £10; Francis Norton, £5; John Goodrich, 40s; Mr. John Plumb, "for preparing a roll of grievances against Mr. Smith and failing of proof in the prosecution thereof," £10; Robert Rose, 40s; and it made it an offense punishable by a fine of £10 upon any person who should *thereafter* "renewe any of the former complaints."<sup>1</sup>

[The unvarnished Rev. Samuel Peters, in his burlesque, *General History of Connecticut*, 1781, a work saturated with High Church preju-

sure, so that till then we can not express our judgments concerning particulars. We find also that many of them who put up their names for remouall were not induced thereto by any dislike, or ingadgment they have in the present quarrels, but for want of lotts and other considerations: yet vpon the view of the generall concerning y<sup>t</sup> will be disadvantageous to the publique and uncomfortable, if not destructive to themselves that so many as are interested in the present differences should remove, and vpon other considerations, we are of openen that the best way for recovering and p<sup>r</sup>esearving the publique peace is that Mr. Smith lay down his place, if y<sup>t</sup> may be done according to God." *Conn. Col. Rec.*, I., 87.

It is concluded that a writing shall be prepared and openly read in the several towns, for the clearing of Mr. Smith, and an Order made of ten pounds fine for whosoever shall be convicted, under two witnesses, to divulge any of the said grievances, to his defamation.

<sup>1</sup> At a General Court, holden, Nov. 24, 1643, (the same full bench as at previous sitting) "Whereas many clamours have been raised and spread through several parts of the country, of some indecent proceedings of Mr. Smith, of Wethersfield, both in church administration and in acting in the civil occasions of the town—whereby the peace of the Commonwealth was disturbed,—which gave occasion to the Court to give liberty to all who had any just grievances, in either kind, to produce them in public, and to appoint a time for hearing and determining the same: which, accordingly was attended by several in that town, and many complaints made wherein Mr. Smith was accused, and judged by them to lye under much guilt. But, upon a full hearing of all that was alleged by any maintenance of their accusations, were mistakes, wherein Mr. Smith was wronged by false reports and unjust surmises. It was, therefore, by unanimous consent of the whole Court, Ordered, for the prevention of the further spreading of the said Reports which tend so much to the prejudice of the Public Peace, and appanent of Mr. Smith, that whosoever within the jurisdiction shall hereafter be convicted by the testimony of two witnesses,

dice against Puritans and dissenters, says that "Weathersfield was settled in 1637, by the Rev. Mr. Smith and his followers, who left Watertown, near Boston, in order to get out of the power of [Rev.] Mr. Cotton, whose severity in New England exceeded that of the bishops in Old England. But Mr. Smith did not discard *the spirit of persecution*, as the sole property of Mr. Cotton; but *carried with him a sufficient quantity of it to distress and divide his little flock.*"

It is not known what was the *gravamen* of the accusations against Mr. Smith; but there are indications that the title to certain real estate in the Great Meadow had an important place in the controversy; and, so far as Mr. Smith's interest therein was concerned, it was not fully settled until many years after his death, which occurred in 1648.

In the diary of Juliana Smith, 1779-81 (quoted in Miss Helen Evertson Smith's *Colonial Days and Ways*, pub. 1900), there exists a copy of a fragment of a reminiscent letter, written in 1699, by the Rev. Henry Smith's son, Samuel Smith, of Hadley, Mass., to his son, Ichabod Smith, residing in Suffield, Conn., apparently in reply to some inquiries which the latter had made. Juliana writes, "Today my Grandmother Smith gave me to read what is left unburnt of a Letter which was written to my Great-Grandfather by his Father & has permitted me to copy it. The Letter itself belongs to my Uncle Dan, because he is my Grandfather's eldest son. A large part of it was burnt when my Grandfather's house in Suffield took fire, and was barely saved from destruction, with the loss of many things, especially Books & Papers. The Bible in which this Letter was kept was found on the next day still smouldering, with more than half of its leaves burnt away, including a part of the Family Record & this Letter:—

"Hadley, Massachusetts Colony,  
Jan. ye Firste, 1698/99

My Dear & Dutiful Son: I was of so tender an Age at the Death of my beloved Father, that I am possessed of but little of the Information for which you seek. My Revered Father was an ordained Minister of y<sup>e</sup> Gospelle, educate at Cambridge in England, & came to y<sup>e</sup> Land by reason of y<sup>e</sup> Great Persecution by which y<sup>e</sup> infamous Archbishop Laud and y<sup>e</sup> Black Tom Tyrante (as Mr. Russell was always wont to call y<sup>e</sup> Earl of Strafforde) did cause y<sup>e</sup> reign of his Majestie, Charles y<sup>e</sup> First,

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to continue or renew any of the former complaints (most of the said grievances having been, also, formerly heard by the Magistrates and Elders) wherein he hath been cleared by this Court, shall forfeit to the country ten pounds for every such offense."

to loose favor in y<sup>e</sup> sight of y<sup>e</sup> people of England. My Father & Mother came over in 1636/37, firste to Watertown which is neare Boston, & after a yeare or two to Weathersfield on y<sup>e</sup> great River, where he became y<sup>e</sup> firste settled Pastor. Concerning of y<sup>e</sup> earlie days I can remember but little save Hardship. My Parents had broughte both Men Servants & Maid Servants from England, but y<sup>e</sup> Maids tarried not but till they got Married, y<sup>e</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> was shortly, for there was great scarcity of Women in y<sup>e</sup> Colonies. Ye men did abide better. Onne of em had married onne of my Mother's Maids & they did come with us to Weathersfield, to our grate Comforte for some years, untill they had manny littel onnes of theire Owne. I do well remember y<sup>e</sup> Face & Figure of my Honoured Father. He was 5 foote, 10 inches talle & spare of builde, tho not leane. He was an Active as y<sup>e</sup> R'd Skin Men & sinewy. His delighe was in sportes of strengthe, & withe his owne Hands he did helpe to reare bothe our owne House & y<sup>e</sup> Firste Meetinge House of Weathersfield, wherein he preacht yeares too fewe. He was well Featured & Fresh favoured with faire Skin & longe curling Hair (as neare all of us have had) with a merrie eye & swete smilinge Mouthe, tho he coulede frowne sternlie eno' when need was."

Where can one find a more attractive portrait of a Puritan minister? His son continues:

"Y<sup>e</sup> firste Meeting House was solid mayde to withstande y<sup>e</sup> wicked onslaughts of y<sup>e</sup> Red Skins. Its Foundations was laide in y<sup>e</sup> feare of y<sup>e</sup> Lord, but its Walls was truly laide in y<sup>e</sup> feare of y<sup>e</sup> Indians for many & grate was y<sup>e</sup> Terrors of em. I do minde me y<sup>t</sup> alle y<sup>e</sup> able-bodied Men did work thereat & y<sup>e</sup> olde & feeble did watch in turns to espie if any Salvages was in hidinge neare & every Man kept his Musket nighe to his hande. I do not myself remember any of y<sup>e</sup> Attacks mayde by large bodeys of Indians whilst we did remayne in Weathersfield, but did oftymes hear of em. Several Families w<sup>ch</sup> did live back a ways from y<sup>e</sup> River was either Murderdt or Captivated in my Boyhood & we all did live in constant feare of y<sup>e</sup> like. My Father ever declaridt there would not be so much to feare iff y<sup>e</sup> Red-Skins was treated with such mixture of Justice & Authority as they cld understand, but iff he was living now he must see that wee can do naught but *fight* em & that right heavily.

"After y<sup>e</sup> Red Skins y<sup>e</sup> grate Terror of our lives at Weathersfield & for many yeares after we had moved to Hadley to live was y<sup>e</sup> Wolves. Catamounts were bad eno' & so was y<sup>e</sup> Beares, but it was y<sup>e</sup> Wolves y<sup>t</sup> was y<sup>e</sup> worst. The noyse of theyre howlings was eno' to curdle y<sup>e</sup> bloode of y<sup>e</sup> stoutest & I have never seen y<sup>e</sup> man y<sup>t</sup> did not shiver at y<sup>e</sup> sounde

of a Packe of em. What with y<sup>e</sup> way we hated em & y<sup>e</sup> goode money y<sup>t</sup> was offered for theyre Heads we do not heare em now so much, but when I do I feel again y<sup>e</sup> younge Hatred rising in my Blood & it is not a Sin because God mayde em to be hated. My Mother & Sister did each of em Kill more y<sup>an</sup> one of y<sup>e</sup> gray Howlers & once my oldest Sister shot a Beare y<sup>e</sup> came too neare y<sup>e</sup> House. He was a goode Fatte onne & kept us all in meate for a good while. I guess onne of her Daughters has got y<sup>e</sup> skinne.

“As most of y<sup>e</sup> Weatherfield Settlers did come afoat throu y<sup>e</sup> Wilder-ness & brought with em such Things only as they did most neede at y<sup>e</sup> firste, y<sup>e</sup> other Things was sent round from Boston in Vessels to come up y<sup>e</sup> River to us. Som<sup>e</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> Shippes did come safe to Weathersfield, but many was lost in a grate storm. Amongst em was onne w<sup>ch</sup> held alle our Beste Things. A goode many Yeares later, long after my Father had died of y<sup>e</sup> grate Fever & my Mother had married Mr. Russell & moved to Hadley it was found that some of our Things had been saved & kept in y<sup>e</sup> Fort w<sup>ch</sup> is by y<sup>e</sup> River’s Mouthe, [Saybrook] & they was brought to us. Most of em was spoilt with Sea Water & Mould, especially y<sup>e</sup> Bookes [Foot-note by Juliana: ‘My Father hath one of these books—The Vision of Piers Plowman. It is so ruinated with damp and mould y<sup>t</sup> no one can read y<sup>e</sup> whole of it’] & y<sup>e</sup> Plate. Of this there was no grate store, only y<sup>e</sup> Tankard, w<sup>ch</sup> I have, and some Spooones, divided among my Sisters w<sup>ch</sup> was alle so black it was long before any could come to its owne colour agen.”

This tankard is now in the possession of Mr. Gilbert Livingston Smith, of Sharon, Ct.—while Rev. Mr. Smith’s seal, bearing the family arms, belongs to his sister, the authoress of the volume from which we have here quoted, and a *fac simile* of it is given at the head of our *Smith Genealogy*, in Vol. II.

The incomplete, yet precious, glimpses of Wethersfield’s first pastor, which this letter affords us, may be further enlarged by his will, apparently written by himself, while “in health of body and soundness of mind,” some months before his death, and with an expressed wish “to leave no occasion of trouble” for his children. The amount to be disposed of was but a little over £370, but, as Miss Smith observes—“that little is so graciously bestowed that one feels as fully persuaded of the testator’s own loving heart as *he* was persuaded of God’s ‘unchangeable love and good will both in life and death’ . . . according to His covenant, viz. :—I am thy God, and of they Seede after thee.” After this profession of faith, which evidently comes from a simple and earnest heart, the will proceeds:



“Then for my ovtward estate, w<sup>ch</sup> because it is but littel, & I have well proved the diffieulties of this covntry, how hard a thing it will bee for a woman to manage the affairs of so great a family as the Father of Mercyes has blessed mee withall, & haue also experience of the prvydence & faithfvlness of my deare Wife, who shall, in parting with mee, part allso withe a great part of her livelihood; I do there fore bequeath & giue to her, the fyll power & disposal of alle that estate w<sup>ch</sup> God hath giuen mee, in houses, lands, cattels & goods whatsoeuer, within dores and withovt; only prouiding that in case shee marry again, or otherwise shee be able comfortably to spare it from her own necessary maintenance, that shee giue vnto my Sonne Samvell that part of my house lott that was intended for my Sonne Peregrine, lyinge next to the bvyryng place, and the land I haue beyon great River eastward; & allso, to him & my second Sonne Noah, five acres apeece of meadow with yplands proportionable therevnto, & to the rest of my children vnmarrried, 20 pounds apeece, at the age of one & twenty yeares, or at the time of her death, w<sup>ch</sup> shall come the sooner. & for my two Daighters that bee married, my desire is that they haue 20 Shillings apeece, and every onne of their children fve shillings apiece either in bookes, or such other things as my Wife shall best please to part withall.”

Of the £370, nearly one-half was in houses and lands; £50 were in live stock (not including any domestic fowls—then quite rare in the colonies). His bees were valued at £8; “husbandry tools” at £3, 10s, and arms and ammunition at £4. “Bookes” are mentioned, but their value not estimated, probably because at the time of his death, proper appraisers may not have been on hand. Ministers were then usually appointed to appraise books: “Three feather beds, with all things belonging to them,” are valued at £40; tables, chairs, stools, cushions, &c., at £3 15s; “cob-irons, trammels, fire-iron,” at £2 8s; and “brasse, iron pots, pewter & such like” at £15; table and other linen and a carpet (i. e. table cover),” at £14 10s. And the will concludes thus, “And I desire the Church whose servant I now am, to take the care and oversight of my family that they may be brovght vp in the trve feare of God, and to see that this my Will be faithfully p<sup>r</sup>formed. In witness whereof I have subscribed my name the 8th day of May, 1648.”—*H. R. S.*]

*Branford.*—The effect of these religious troubles at Wethersfield may, also, perhaps, be apparent when we look into the somewhat obscure history of the planting of Totucket, in 1664, a settlement which by 1653 (perhaps earlier) was known as *Branford*, which name the south part of the original township retains to this day. Mr. Samuel Eaton,

brother to the then Governor of the New Haven Colony, had received a grant of land at Totoket, as early as September, 1640, "for such friends as he shall bring over from olde England"; and a few people, principally from New Haven, had settled there between 1640 and 1644. At least, buildings of some kind had been erected there and fences set up by Moulénor, as early as January, 1641. But, it was not until some years later that the settlement took an *uninterrupted* start. In the *New Haven Colony Records*, (p. 199 of Hoadley's edition), occurs the following entry, apparently made in October, 1645: "Totoket, a place fit for a small plantation, betwixt New Haven and Guilford & purchased from the Indians, was granted to Mr. Swayne and some others of Wethersfield, they repaying the charge, which is between 12 & 13 l. & joyning in one jurisdiction with New Haven & the forenamed plantations, uppon the same fundamental agreement settled in Octob<sup>r</sup>. 1643, w<sup>ch</sup> they, duely considering, readilye accepted."

The Mr. Swayne here referred to is the "WILLIAM SWAYNE, Gentleman," whose two daughters were captured by the Pequots, in 1637. He was a large landholder in Wethersfield and there is no evidence that he was involved in the controversy with Mr. Smith. He took with him his son SAMUEL, who became prominent in the affairs of the Totoket plantation. The writer knows of no list of those who emigrated from Wethersfield to Totoket in 1644; but will give the names of such as he has been able to derive from various sources, viz.:

Robert Abbott	William Swayne, "Gent."
Leslie Bradfield (or Bradford)	Samuel Swayne (son of Wm.)
Robert Foote (son of Nath'l)	Thomas Whitway
William Palmer	Michael Taintor (son of Charles)
Mr. John Plumb	Edward Vere (Veir, Vore)
Samuel Plumb (son of John)	Samuel Gardner (?)
Robert Rose (son of John)	

Such Wethersfield names as *Curtis*, *Rogers*, *Treat* and *Ward* are also found among the earliest settlers, but we are not able to identify them with any Wethersfield settlers. They were soon joined by Rev. JOHN SHERMAN, then of Milford, whither he had removed from Wethersfield in 1639. He preached for them until the Rev. Abraham Pierson (who came from Southampton, L. I., with a part of his congregation, in 1644), was settled. The Wethersfield and Southampton people united in one congregation, and Mr. Pierson became their first settled pastor. He was the father of "Rector" Abraham Pierson, the first President of Yale College. It would be interesting, did space permit,

to give some account of the Totoket colony; but it must be admitted that harmony did not long exist in the new church.

*Newark, N. J.*—In 1666, matters had reached such a stage that a division became inevitable. Robert and Samuel Edsal, acting for the fraction of the Branford Church which they represented, purchased a tract at Pesayak, since known as Newark, N. J., and the first meeting there of the Branford people was held May 21st, 1666.<sup>1</sup> A "fundamental Agreement" was signed at Branford, Oct. 30th, 1666, and sent to the new settlement in New Jersey, where it was signed by others in June, 1667; making sixty-three in all. It provided, among other things, that none should be "admitted freemen, or free burgesses, within our Town upon Passaic River, in the Province of New Jersey, but such as are members of one or other congregational churches." Many of the names of signers will be recognized as former residents, or sons of residents of Wethersfield. But, in addition, some, originally from Wethersfield, went from Milford, Stamford and Guilford.

Among the settlers of *Elizabeth, N. J.*, in 1666, will be found the names of several of Wethersfield origin; some of whom had removed to Jamaica and Hempstead, L. I. Among the *Newark* settlers of Wethersfield stock may be mentioned

Samuel Swayne

Samuel Plumb

Samuel Rose

John Harrison

Richard Harrison (?)

Robert Treat

John Curtis (?)

Of the same class at *Elizabeth*, may be mentioned JONAS WOOD; MOSES TOMSON(?); ZACHARY GRAVES(?); THOMAS DICKINSON; DANIEL DENTON. [And AMOS and SAMUEL (sons of Matthew and Susannah) WILLIAMS.<sup>2</sup>—*H. R. S.*]

It is said that the cause of the removal to Newark, was the dissatisfaction felt by the Branford people at the union between the New Haven Colony and the Connecticut Colony—the latter being less Presbyterian than the former. Not only the pastor, Mr. Pierson, but a majority of his flock accompanied him to "the Jersies."

*Second Pastor of the Church at Wethersfield.*—Within two years, probably, after Mr. Smith's death, in 1648, he was succeeded in the care of the Wethersfield Church, by the Rev. JOHN RUSSELL, Jr., whose father had married Mr. Smith's widow. For a time

<sup>1</sup> Stearns *First Church in Newark*, pp. 12-15.

<sup>2</sup> Hatfield's *History of Fairfield, N. J.*, p. 56.

peace reigned in Wethersfield, but, about 1657-58, the Church there was drawn into the great "Hartford Controversy," so called, and in which nearly all the churches of Connecticut and, indeed, of New England, became more or less involved. The origin of the dispute, which began in the latter part of 1657, or the early part of 1658, was between the Rev. Samuel Stone of the Hartford Church and his "Ruling Elder," Mr. William Goodwin, and is supposed to have been upon some nice points of Congregationalism, though the learned Dr. Mather intimates that it was difficult, even at that time, to ascertain exactly what were the precise points of difference. One, at least, seems to have been the "Half-Way Covenant."<sup>1</sup> So hot did the dispute become, that the minority of Mr. Stone's church finally planned to leave the Hartford Church and join that of Wethersfield, and the project would have been consummated, but for the interference of the General Court, which forbade Mr. Stone and his church from disciplining the withdrawers, and the latter from their proposed union with Mr. Russell's church.

[The embers of old dissensions in the Wethersfield Church had not so thoroughly cooled down, however, but that they were easily stirred into new life by this controversy in their neighboring town, with whose people they were in daily converse. And, as frequently happens in such cases, they were rudely raked open and fanned into flame by what appears to have been an arbitrary and imprudent action of Mr. Russell's, who as witness in a law suit, had testified in a way that was offensive to Lieut. John Hollister, an interested party and prominent member of his congregation, and who naturally expressed his feelings in the matter. Mr. Russell, like Mr. Stone, is said to have inclined towards Presbyterianism, as opposed to *independent* Congregationalism, and to have held the same views as to church government and discipline; and so, apparently without even the courtesy of a church trial, Mr. Hollister found himself, in 1656, excommunicated from church privileges—and when he demanded the reasons, or charges for this summary proceeding, they were refused. In this affair Mr. Russell seems

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<sup>1</sup> The "Half-Way Covenant" was a rule which admitted to the rite of baptism, "the children of such baptized parents" as were not scandalous [in the marital relation, or in their walks and conversation], and who would own the Covenant, though not members of the church in full communion." Before its adoption, no children, whose parents were not members of the church in full communion, could be baptized. The movement for this "letting down of the bars" of strict church membership, began in 1655: and gained strength from the action of General Council held at Boston in June, 1657: but, its clause and the recommendation of the General Court was not acceptable to all the Conn. churches, nor did they end the controversy. See Trumbull's *Hist. Conn.*, I., 297, 298, 303, 304.



to have had a majority of the *Church* with him; but unfortunately, a majority of the Town, which, in those days, really controlled the Church, was against him, and sided very strongly with Hollister. "Had Mr. Russell been anxious to test the practical workings of his plan of church government," says Hollister the historian, a descendant of the redoubtable Lieutenant, "he could hardly have chosen a more favorable subject than one of Capt. Mason's military officers, a gentleman of undoubted probity, an experienced member of the General Court and a man not likely to be outdone by Mr. Russel in the steadiness of his purpose and the obstinacy of his resistance. Besides his own natural force of character, Hollister had married a daughter of Richard Treat, Esq., one of the most formidable opponents in the colony, and could bring into the quarrel an array of names that the General Court would hardly treat with contempt."

The whole town, of course, was excited by this contest. A petition was presented to the General Court, signed by Hollister and ten other members of the Church and by thirty-eight others (probably members of the Society), of the best standing in the community. This petition reads thus:

"To the right Worshipful, the Governor and Deputy Governor, the Worshipful Magistrates and Deputies, assembled at Hartford, in this Honored Court, your humble petitioners wish increase of all felicity. August 17th, 1658.

"We, inhabitants of Wethersfield, are necessitated to implore the aid and assistance of this Honored Court, and thereafter by right of an order made last March; for Mr. Russell, as we conceive, is not our settled and approved minister: First, he having sent us a writing, in the Spring, to provide for ourselves lest we be destitute, and we having professed, we look upon ourselves as free by answer of our committee, nor can we close with him, and are afraid to venture our souls under his ministry, he having given so great a scandal to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by such a greivous oath, acknowledged by himself to be ambiguous, rash and sinful, and what more may be made evident. Therefore, we, your humble petitioners, humbly crave that we may not be held in bondage, but may use our liberty in procuring a minister who may be faithful in the administrations of the Gospel, and inoffensive in his conversation; otherwise, we, your humble petitioners, shall be forced to undergo whatever inconveniences or damage may come upon us or ours, for we think him altogether unfit for our comfort. And we, your humble petitioners, humbly crave your help, for we profess it lies as a heavy burden upon our consciences, and we know no rule

that he should compel us to it. And if your humble petitioners find relief, you will now engage us to all legal subjection to you, so humbly we take our leave of you, and rest yours to be commanded.

*Members of the Church.*

John Hollister	Richard Smith, Sr.	Margaret Wright
Thomas Wright, Sr.	Alice Treat	Rebecca Smith
John Deming, Sr.	Joana Hollister	Dorothy Edwards
John Edwards, Sr.	Mary Robbins	

*Not Church Members.*

Thomas Curtis	Thomas Gilbert	George Wolcott
John Chester	Thomas Williams	Thomas Wickham
Samuel Boardman	John Sadler	Nathaniel Graves
Thomas Standish	John Belden	John Wadhams
John Kilbourn	Emanuel Buck	James Treat
Richard Treat	Hugh Wells	Samuel Wright
John Nott	John Harrison	Jonathan Smith
Thomas Lord	Benjamin Crane	John Curtis
Thomas Wright, Jr	Mathias Treat	James Boswell
John Riley	William Colefaxe	Henry Crane
Richard Smith, Jr.	Philip Goffe	Lewis Jones
James Wright	James Wakeley	
John Deming, Jr	Joseph Smith	

G. H. Hollister, the Connecticut historian, remarks, upon this petition that "it will be seen that it is signed by ten Church members themselves, first by the individual aggrieved, followed by the other male members; then by the female members, with Mrs. Treat, the wife of Richard and mother of Gov. Treat, at the head, and next to her, Mrs. Hollister, her daughter, wife of the principal applicant; and that these names, male and female, are separated with as much decency as their owners would have observed in the meeting-house on the Sabbath."

Meanwhile, Mr. Hollister was again returned by his fellow citizens as a member of the General Court, in order that he might more effectively urge his claims, which he did at its session of August 18th, 1658, in presenting the petition before quoted, and obtained an order that Mr. Russell should give his reasons for his action, such reasons to be delivered to Hollister, or placed in the hands of a messenger from him, who should call at Mr. Russell's house. If this was not done, Mr. Samuel Welles, and Mr. Samuel Boardman were ordered "seasonably to repair vnto Mr. Russell in behalfe of Lieut. H. and in the name

of the Court desire, and, if need be, *require* of him and the Church of Wethersfield, the particular charges, or offences for which Mr. H. was censured; and having received the said charges from Mr. R., forthwith to deliver them to Mr. Hollister for his help and conviction"; and, inasmuch as Mr. Treat, Mr. Hill and John Deming were desirous and willing to attend some regular way for the composing of these difficulties, the Court desired the Church at Wethersfield, to obtain some way of reconciliation between the parties, if that were possible.

*Hadley (Mass.) settled by secession from Wethersfield Church.*—Meanwhile, and in the early part of the year 1658, Mr. Russell had been ready to depart from Wethersfield; for, on the 16th of April, 1658, the Town had appointed a committee to wait upon him and request him to stay. But, after this implied censure of the General Court in the Hollister case, any further remonstrances were seen to be in vain; and, in December, 1658, the Town expressed its conviction, by vote, that they no longer had a settled minister; and overtures had apparently been made to the Massachusetts Colony, to learn whether that government was favorably inclined to a new settlement within its jurisdiction. The Massachusetts government had been sounded as to its probable attitude towards such a movement, and on May 20th, 1658, had formally granted Hartford and Wethersfield people permission to settle "at Norwattock [Hadley, Mass.] or elsewhere" within its jurisdiction. In December of the same year, also, the Town expressed its conviction, by vote, that they had no settled minister; and in the following Spring (March, 1659), chose a committee to confer with Governor Thomas Welles (then residing in Wethersfield), and Rev. Mr. Stone, of Hartford, about procuring someone "to be helpful in the work of the ministry."

That Mr. Russell, however, had not left Wethersfield at this time, seems to be evident from the fact that the *Town Records* say, under date of May 2nd, 1659, "It is commonly reported that Mr. Russell hath sent for his church at Norwattock (Hadley) to do some church act, whereby the Towne is wholly destitute," and then they proceeded to appoint a committee to find a new minister. We can not clearly understand, from the wording of this entry, what this "church act" was; but it evidently convinced the Town that their late pastor no longer considered himself as connected with the Wethersfield Church, and that they must make up their minds to part with him. And, the phrase, "his church at Norwattock," leads us to infer that the exodus of some of his adherents, at least, from Wethersfield, had already commenced. Yet, it could only have been an advance guard. For on the 18th of April,

1659, a gathering of men from Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield, was held at the house of Nathaniel Ward, at Hartford, where it was mutually agreed, in writing, that the signers of a proposed agreement should "remove themselves and their families out of the jurisdiction of Connecticut, into the jurisdiction of Massachusetts."—*H. R. S.*]

Of the fifty-nine signers, thirty-six or thirty-seven were from Hartford, twenty from Wethersfield, and two or three from Windsor.

Those from Wethersfield were

John Russell, Sen.	Samuel Gardner, of Hoccanum,
Rev. John Russell, Jr.	(Wethersfield).
Nathaniel Dickinson.	John Hubbard, son of George.
John Dickinson	Thomas Edwards, of Hoccanum.
Thomas Dickinson	(Wethersfield).
} sons of Nath'l	
Samuel Smith, son of Rev. Henry,	Robert Boltwood.
dec'd.	William Gull.
Thomas Coleman.	Luke Hitchcock.
John Colman, son of Thomas.	Philip Smith. <sup>1</sup>
Thomas Welles, son of Hugh	Samuel Smith, Jr., s. of Samuel,
Welles and son-in-law of	the "Fellmonger."
Thomas Coleman.	Richard Montague.
James Northam.	John Latimer.

Before the end of the year, all of the above named, except Thos. Edwards, Samuel Smith, Jr., Luke Hitchcock, Richard Montague and John Latimer, had removed to Norwottuck. These five remained in Wethersfield.

About the 15th of March, 1661,

Nathaniel Dickinson, Jr.	Samuel Belden.
Thomas Graves.	Edward Benton.
Isaac,	Sigismond Ritchell.
John,	Samuel Dickinson (son of Nath'l).
} sons of Thomas.	

Signed another agreement to remove to the *West* side of the River at Norwottock. Of these, Benton and Ritchell remained in Wethersfield; the others removed to Hadley, as the new settlement was subsequently named.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Philip Smith, Richard Montague, Mr. John Russell, Jr., had bolting-mills at Hadley. Montague was a baker, his bolting-mill val. 1680, at 60 shillings.—*Judd*.

<sup>2</sup> *Judd's History of Hadley*.



*Hatfield, Mass.*—In 1672, the following Wethersfield men and their families were residing at Hatfield, west side of Connecticut River, opposite Hadley:

John Graves, Sr.	Samuel Foote.
Daniel Belden.	Samuel Belden.
John Graves, Jr.	Edmond Benton.
Isaac Graves, Sr.	John Coleman.
Isaac Graves, Jr.	Wm. Gull.
Nathaniel Dickinson, Sr.	Wm. Ellis (Allis).
Nathaniel Dickinson, Jr.	Steph. Taylor?
Hezekiah, }	Samuel Dickinson.
Nehemiah, } sons of Nath. Dickinson, Sr.	John Wells.
Obadiah, }	Philip Russell.
Nath'l Foote.	Wm. Scott?

[In regard to this controversy and secession to Massachusetts from Wethersfield church, *The Literary Diary of Pres. Ezra Stiles*, of Yale College, recently published, gives us a little additional light. This close and scholarly student of New England Ecclesiastical history, makes the following note, in 1788 (*III*, 332).—(*Italics* are our own. *H. R. S.*)

“CHH. WETHERSFIELD. There is great obscurity. No records. Controversy there 1659. About 1660, the Pastor, Rev. John Russell and all the Chh. Members, *but 5 under censure & one who was silent*, voted a Removal—& Pastor & Chh. actually removed to Hadly, *leaving the five Brethren under Censure*. By Letter dated Norwoo, April 29, 1661, written by Mr. Russel & Wm. Goodwin in the name of the [Hadly] Chh. to the Chhs. of Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester & Cambridge, they ask Council whether the Chh. of Hadly may be silent & lett the 5 Brethren [at Weth.] procede? *For the five Brethren after Mr. Russel's Removal & two more declared themselves a Chh. & admitted Members*. And the Weathersfd Affairs were before the Assembly. Thus, I suppose *Weathfd Chh was regathered 1660*. (*Vide*. Mr. Russels Lett. among Mather Mss.)”

Pres. Stiles' supposition as to the regathering of the Wethersfield Church, 1660, is, in a sense, true, for the General Court, obliged to take some measures to remedy the evils growing out of this unhappy state of things, resolved, at its session of 14th March, 1660-1, that, inasmuch as there was a church orderly gathered in Wethersfield, by the

<sup>2</sup> *Wethersfield Rec.*, May 21, 1688.

full allowance of the Court and magistrates then in power and by the consent and approbation of neighboring churches, *the removal of members did not destroy the church*, and therefore "the Court doth hereby declare that the said Church is the true and undoubted Church of CHRIST in Wethersfield, and so to be accounted and esteemed." <sup>1</sup>—*H. R. S.*]

This secession to Hadley and Hatfield, was the last, perhaps, which arose from any ecclesiastical dissension in Wethersfield; but other *emigrations* followed from time to time, which we briefly chronicle, as forming a part of Wethersfield's claim to be called one of the Mother Towns of Connecticut.

#### OTHER EMIGRATIONS.

*Norwich*, known up to 1661, as *Mohagan* was settled in 1659; and among its pioneers were John Reynolds and Thomas Tracy, both from Wethersfield. REYNOLDS had been living in Stamford for some years, probably since 1640, when he sold his homestead at Wethersfield to Lieut. John Hollister. He became a prominent civil official at Norwich. TRACY, originally from Tewkesbury, Eng., to Salem, Mass., 1636; removed to Wethersfield about 1649; thence, 1660, to Norwich; he was the ancestor of U. S. Senator and Statesman Uriah Tracy, and others of the name, well known. WILLIAM HYDE, last from Saybrook, may have first resided at Wethersfield, possibly a son or brother of Timothy Hyde of that place. THOS. HOWARD was also a proprietor of 1659, and from Wethersfield.

*New London*.—This settlement, known down to 1658 as Nameaug (sometimes, also, as *Pequot*, or *Pequet*), was begun in 1645. Among its original settlers we find JACOB WATERHOUSE and GEORGE CHAPPELL. The former (probably the same name as *Watrous*) first went to Saybrook, perhaps as a soldier, only a year or two previously. He sold his homestead in Wethersfield to William Colfax, May, 1647, or earlier; and was one of three or four occupants of Pequot, two years earlier. He is not to be confounded with another person of the same name in Wethersfield, who remarried and probably died there, being apparently of little or no account. Mr. ROBERT PARKE and his son THOMAS PARKE, both wealthy gentlemen, removed from Wethersfield to New London, in 1650; also, in the same year went ROBERT BURROWS (or Burroughs) RICHARD BELDEN and WILLIAM TAYLOR but the latter remained not long there. Taylor returned to Wethers-

<sup>1</sup> Chapin's *Glastonbury Centennial*, 36.

field, where his sons John and Samuel lived. Belden, probably, never intended to remain permanently there, as he had a family and large estates in Wethersfield. Parke and Burrows settled in that part of New London known as Poquonock (now in Groton Township). ANDREW LANGDON (or Longdon), whom Miss Caulkins places in the list of New London (or, rather Pequot) settlers, in 1647, went from Wethersfield, a fact of which this gifted historian does not seem to have been aware. His Wethersfield homestead was purchased by William Comstock in 1643; but he may have left Wethersfield earlier. WILLIAM TAYLOR and WILLIAM COMSTOCK, both of whom were in New London as early as Nov. 10, 1650, co-operating with Mr. Winthrop in the establishing of a corn mill, were both from Wethersfield, which Miss Caulkins does not seem to have known. Taylor's son John was born in Wethersfield July 23d, 1649, and with his brother John resided there. Taylor, the father, did not long remain in New London, but returned prior to 1671, and built himself a house at Rocky Hill. Lieut. SAMUEL SMITH had bought a lot at Nameaug as early as February, 1651-2; remained there and became "Town's Lieutenant" of New London. He was a son of Samuel Smith, "the Fellmonger," as the records sometimes call him. The latter was one of the original Watertown settlers of Wethersfield, and a person of large landed possessions and standing. Besides his son, Lieut. Samuel Smith, Jr., he had a son Richard Smith, Sr., who remained in Wethersfield; a son Lieut. Philip, who removed to Hadley, in 1659, and a son John, who also went to Hadley. Excepting on the authority of Miss Caulkins, we should doubt if the Lieut. Samuel Smith, of New London, came from Wethersfield; unless, possibly, it was another Samuel, son of Richard, Sr., and grandson of Samuel, the Watertown settler, who was an old man when he came to Wethersfield, in 1634-5. Richard Smith, Sr., and Richard Smith, Jr., of Narragansett (Wickford, R. I., then claimed by Connecticut), in 1663, can not have been the person of the same name in Wethersfield; although Richard Smith, Jr., removed to the east side of the river (Glastonbury). There was another Richard Smith, who was in Lyme, in 1671, and perhaps earlier. Mr. JOHN TINKER, the Assistant for New London, in 1660, and whom Miss Caulkins describes as "a grave and noble man," was not—as she supposes, from the Massachusetts Colony; but was in Wethersfield as early as 1641; at least, we may so infer, from the fact of his recording some of his lands there, at that date.

*Middletown*, until 1653 known as *Mattabesett*, was begun in 1651, and in the little handful of its pioneers, was WILLIAM SMITH, of

Wethersfield, but after a few years he removed to Farmington. JOHN KIRBY, Sr., went to Middletown, probably, in 1652, taking with him his children, Hannah, John and Eunice. A list of proprietors of Middletown, taken March 22d, 1670, contains the following names, as is believed of Wethersfield men: GEORGE HUBBARD, 2d, who, in 1649, had been fined 10s., at Wethersfield for exchanging a musket with an Indian; RICHARD HALL, originally of Hartford; THOMAS HUBBARD; JOHN HURLBURT, son of Thomas, the Pequot soldier; WILLIAM BRIGGS, and perhaps, JAMES TAPPIN (Tappan, Topping), son of Capt. Thomas (?), of Wethersfield.

*A proposed settlement in the present Windham County.*—In May, 1682, inhabitants Wethersfield, petitioned the General Court for "liberty to erect a plantation in the Wabaquassit country." This was in the vicinity of the present Township of Woodstock; the tract asked for was an area of ten miles square. The signers to the petition were: Rich. Smith, Benj. Crane, Sr., John Brunson, Tho. Hollister, John Waddoms [Wadhams], Edw. Benton, Sam. Smith, and Joseph Smith, in behalf of themselves and "of the rest," named in the petitions, viz.: Tho. Marshall, John Hunnwell, Caleb Benjamin, Ezekiel Buck, Wm. Tryon, John Kilbourn, Jr., Tho. Kilbourn, Eben Kilbourn, Daniel Boardman, Jonathan Boardman, Jonathan Belden, John Taylor, Sam. Taylor, Jonath. Colefax [Colfax], Peter Blin, Joseph Curtis, Tho. Hale, John North, Alex. Keney, John Hosinton, Wm. Taylor, John Morris and Sam. Baker. The petition was in the handwriting of the Rev. Gershom Bulkeley. The tract was so far north that the petitioners were in doubt whether it would partly fall within the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, whose south line was then undetermined. The Wethersfield men did not take up the tract, and it was, in 1684, bought by Capt. James Fitch, of Norwich, from the Indian, Oweneco.

In January, 1687, the General Court, being apprehensive that Andros, the Royal Governor, was about to possess himself of the Colony's charter—undertook, by granting the unoccupied tracts west of the Connecticut River to Windsor, Hartford, Wethersfield, Middletown, Farmington and Killingworth—to place those lands beyond the reach and control of the "Usurper." The movement was an ill-advised one; for it would not, in law, have had the desired effect; and it, in fact, led to bitter controversies when the Colony afterward sought to recover its title to the lands in question. The lands granted to Wethersfield, Middletown and Farmington were: "All those vacant lands between Wallingford bounds and the bounds of those plantations to make a



village therein." Respecting this grant, which was very vague and indefinite, it does not appear, that any conclusion was ever reached.

*Other Wethersfields in the United States.*—This old "Mother Town" has given birth to one other town, of the same name; and her name to three others, which are now recognized postoffices in the *U. S. Postal Directory*.

*Wethersfield, Illinois.*—In the year 1836, during the "craze" for speculation in Western real estate which prevailed throughout the country, *The Connecticut Association*, "having in view piety in State of Illinois," was formed at Wethersfield, Conn., by a number of residents, mostly of this town and of Glastonbury. It numbered about 60 members, as follows: Chester Bulkley, Dr. Archibald Welsh, Merritt Butler, Elisha Wolcott, Joshua Goodrich, Samuel Galpin, John Hanmer, Samuel Hanmer, Osmond Harrison, Alfred Blinn, Chauncey Coleman, Horace Wolcott, Martin Kellogg, Roger Welles, Wealthy Willard, Henry Robbins, Lorren Robbins, Selden Miner, James L. Belden, Rev. Levi R. Churchill, John Morris, Philo Currin, Geo. Yurom, Mrs. Ann Marsh, ——— Stillman, Geo. Wells, Miles and Horace Davis, *all of Wethersfield*; Col. Sylvester Blish, Norman Hubbard, Iona Hubbard, Rev. Sam'l H. Riddel, of *Glastonbury*; Allyn and Geo. Kellogg, R. Talcott, N. O. Kellogg, Aaron Kellogg, Phineas Talcott, Allyn Talcott, of *Vernon, Ct.*, and a few others from other places. Revs. C. J. Tenny, Ralph Emerson (of Andover, Mass.), Ithamer Pillsbury and Rev. John Marsh of N. Y. (son of the old Wethersfield pastor), are also named on the records as "proprietors." For a subscription of \$250, each person was entitled to a quarter section of prairie land, 20 acres of timber land and a village lot of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres. The plan of the Company embraced a Literary Institution, or "Manual Labor Academy," a church (denomination to be decided by the trustees), steam saw and grist mills, a brick yard and a public house, or inn; but it was to be a strictly temperate town. The land was surveyed and a village plot laid out—the population grew by 1839, to about 40 families, a church and a schoolhouse (both of logs) were builded; and missionary work commenced by a Rev. Ithamar Pillsbury, followed later by a Rev. Mr. Vail, etc. But the general collapse of the real estate boom swamped the enterprise, and though the Eastern stockholders maintained a bold front for a time, by 1848, the Association had "wound up business." The town which they founded ultimately revived and is now a postoffice in the Directory of the U. S. Postoffice Department. (This sketch taken from the original Book of Records of the Association, in possession of the late Judge S. W. Adams.)

Among the *namesake-towns*, the oldest is *Weathersfield*, *Windsor Co.*, *Vermont*, a township granted in August, 1761, to Gideon Lyman and 61 others, most of whom were from New Haven, Ct. By 1765, they had made considerable progress, both as to population and cultivation of their settlement; but a bitter dispute was then being waxed between the States of New Hampshire and New York as to their respective rights to the "New Hampshire grants" in which territory their settlement was located, and fearing that their progress would be thereby seriously retarded, they appealed for protection, in 1766, to the Lieut. Governor of the latter State. In April, 1772, they received from New York a new grant of their lands. In the Revolutionary days they were firm supporter of American liberty, and formed a patriotic association to forward the interests of the cause. (*Coolidge & Mansfield's Hist. and Description of New Eng.*, I, 935.) A town government was formed in 1778, and later came peaceably under the jurisdiction of the State of Vermont. (*Howard & Crocker's Hist. and Description of New Eng.*, II, 354.)

*Wethersfield*, *Trumbull Co.*, *Ohio*.—Previous to the settlement of this county, and indeed before the survey, in 1796, of the eastern portion of the Western Reserve, salt was being manufactured by white men at "the old salt works in Wethersfield."—(*Barber & Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio*, 478.)

*Wethersfield*, ————— *Co.*, *New York*, first settled, 1810, by four men from Jefferson Co., N. Y., whose names do not hint at any *Connecticut Wethersfield* origin; it was set off as a township from Orangeville, in 1823. *Wethersfield Springs*, in N. E. cor. of town has 3 churches and 170 inhabitants.—(*Hough's Gazeteer of the State of N. Y.*, 718.)

## CHAPTER IV.

*Civil Organization, Illustrated by the Town's Records—Inter-Territorial Settlements.—The Village of Wethersfield, 1822.*

[BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ.]

IN THE meantime, while the inhabitants of Wethersfield (as well as those of her sister towns, Windsor and Hartford) were thus taking up the land and laying the foundations of their new homes and domestic life in this Western Hemisphere, their civil and economic interests were also crystallizing and being welded together in a form of Civil Government, necessary to the protection of their individual and social rights and privileges. It is of this Civil organization, as connected with and illustrated by Wethersfield's history, that we propose now to speak—briefly, but in such a way as may render subsequent allusions to it, intelligible to our readers.

"For two years and a half," says Andrews, (*The River Towns of Connecticut*, p. 93), "it is extremely probable that the only civil officers were the *constable*, whose position was semi-military; the *collectors*, appointed by the Court to gather the rates; the *commissioners*, afterwards the *assistants*, and the *committees* of the General Court, who resided in the separate towns. The inhabitants must have met 'in some Publike Assembly,' for their consent was necessary in certain orders, and they elected committees to the Court of 1637. The use of this term inclines us to the opinion, that all strictly town matters were at first conducted by committees appointed in a meeting of the whole, and that, by 1638-9, one such committee, the townsmen, had become official in its character and was annually elected. The fact that the Hartford records for the first three years were merely notes regarding land, precautions to prevent the spread of fire, provision for guard at every public meeting, and the appointment of a man to keep the bridge in repair, and to do work upon the highways, would seem to show that there was hardly a settled organization. These notes were undoubtedly either entered in the book at a later day when a recorder was appointed, or transferred from jottings made at the time of the adoption of these rules." \* \* \* \* "With the beginning of the year 1639 (January 1, 1638, O. S.), we find the first mention of town officers. Hartford elected at that time four *townsmen*," and the

careful manner in which their duties are defined and elaborated upon the town's books in connection with the record of their election leads us to infer that the civil organization of the Connecticut towns was then just beginning to get into shape. Owing to the loss of Wethersfield's Town records before 1646, and of Windsor's before 1650, we are left to depend upon Hartford's more complete records for our knowledge of the gradual evolution of the system of town government.

*Townsmen.*—This is the title for many years given to those whom we now designate "Selectmen." Neither of these names were known in England, where officers having similar duties are called "Overseers of the Poor." The term Townsmen, first appears in the Connecticut Colonial Code of 1650; that of Selectmen first appears on the Colonial Records in May, 1660. In Wethersfield the term Townsmen seems to have been used from the beginning; that of Selectmen only since 1666. There are indications that the two terms were not synonymous; for, at times (as in 1666, '67, '69, '81, '83, '84 and '85), both sets of officers were elected; and the two boards consisted, in part, of different men. The title of *Selectmen* appears first to have been applied to officials who made up *special* lists of estates, as distinguished from those of the regular assessors, or "listers," as they were then called.

In regard to this want of differentiation between the terms "townsmen" and "selectmen," Andrews (*The River Towns of Connecticut*, p. 109), thus remarks: "The townsmen gradually changed into the selectmen. This name does not appear in Hartford and Windsor records before 1691, and from that time for a period of twenty-five years there is a curious commingling of the two terms. It first styled two town courts established the title "selectmen" was often used in recording the election, but the town clerk still clung to the good old name, and we find "townsmen" in the minutes of further proceedings. But there is plenty of evidence to show that the terms were used synonymously. Wethersfield employed the terms in a very confusing fashion. It first styled two town courts established in 1666 and 1667 "selectmen," and in 1679 and 1681, again used the term for a distinct body; it is evident, from the nature of the latter's duties, that they were connected with the granting and receiving of certificates of freemanship. The establishment of this body seems to have been the following out of an order of the Court in 1678, in which selectmen giving false certificates were fined £5.<sup>1</sup> Wethersfield

<sup>1</sup> In seventy years in Wethersfield, 74 men held the office of townsmen, with an average of four elections to each. Of these 74, thirty held office over four times; with an average of six elections to each; 14 held over six times, with an average



immediately elected for this body an extra body—first of four members, then of three—who performed this service; and, because, from their positions, they needed to have a familiarity with the list of estates, they were, in 1679, given the duties of listers and ratemakers. But, in a few years the term had become confused with that of townsmen, and the fact that the name ‘selectmen’ was already in use and further established by the laws of the Andros administration in 1688, to which Wethersfield, at least, very dutifully responded,<sup>1</sup> brought it into common use, and after 1725, ‘selectmen’ was the commonly accepted term.”

The number of townsmen varied greatly among the several towns; thus Hartford had four regularly; Windsor, seven, afterwards reduced to five; while Wethersfield, in seventy years, elected twenty-six bodies of five, twenty-nine bodies of four, and fifteen bodies of three.

“At that time much was passed upon by people in town meeting, which would now be decided by the selectmen at their own meeting, on the strength of the power vested in them by law. But there was then no law determining the exact nature of their office. Each town measured the proper limitations of its own townsmen, and one may say that the townsmen did everything for the performance of which no one else was appointed. Often, these powers varied from year to year \* \* \* \* \* The control of all expenditures, whether for church, town or school matters were in the hands of the townsmen. “Under the heading of ‘Town’s Expenses’ came paying the herders, watch, drum-beaters, building and repairing bridges, setting the town mill, surveying lands, repairing the minister’s house, payment of minister’s salary, occasionally supporting indigent persons, repair of town property (as guns, ferries, town stocks, etc.), payment of bounties for wolves and blackbirds, payment of town officers, and such extras as ‘townsmen dining with magistrates,’ ‘liquor for bounds goers,’ ” etc.—an imperfect,

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of eight elections to each; 4 held office over eight times, with an average of ten elections to each, and the *most* befunctionaried individual served as townsman eleven times, while only 15 held office but once.—*Weth. Rec.*, 1646-1716.

<sup>1</sup> *Weth. Rec.*, May 21, 1688.

<sup>2</sup> The annual *perambulation* or reviewal of a town’s boundaries, by joint committees, was a survival of an old English custom dating from early Saxon times, which was very early in full operation in the Conn. Colony. The perambulators, or “bounds-goers,” received pay for their services on such occasions, and cider or liquor was also allowed them as a part of the expense attending the ceremonial. *Andrews* (p. 100—note), says, “from the value of the liquor used, from 2s. to 6s., and from its character and the amount used [*i. e.* judging from the Hartford and Windsor records] it is likely that the bounds-goers stopped at each bound mark, and performed a little ceremony. But *Wethersfield* was not so lavish as her sister town,

list, of course, but serving to give an idea of what town expenditures were in the olden time.

*Town Meetings.*—The first recorded vote in Wethersfield, fixing a definite time for a stated (annual) meeting of townsmen, was on 19th Dec., 1715, when it was provided that it be held on the second Monday of December, to begin at nine o'clock in the morning, and "to end at sundown."

*The Town House or Office* was ordered to be built for town purposes, by vote of October 2d, 1679. The vote was for a "small house on y<sup>e</sup> parsonage home lott, for a house of office & some other use." The lot in question was that which the town had obtained from Samuel Hale, in 1667, and was the second one north of the "way into the burying ground." As early as 1662, the *Town House* is mentioned. This was on land adjoining the burying ground lane on the north, and is supposed to have originally been the Rev. Henry Smith's. It was given to Sam. Hale, by the town, in 1667, in exchange for the one above mentioned.

*Constable.*—This office, to which the General Court, in 1636, appointed an incumbent in each of the River Towns, within its jurisdiction—may be considered as the *initial* point of Town Organization. For the appointment of a constable in any of these, or subsequently formed communities, seems to have been a tacit admission of its rights and privileges as a township, whose further organization thereafter proceeded—either by the order or the advice of the General Court—by the choice of the people of said community, acting directly by vote in town meeting, or through their duly instructed townsmen.

The constable was obliged to take oath, after his election, before the Magistrate, or an Assistant. His duties were, to collect the county rate and deliver it to the Colonial Collector (Treasurer, after 1708) to warn the freeman to attend the meeting for election of deputies, at which meeting, also, he was to read the laws, or orders passed by the General Court during the preceding year; and also, to publish the country rate; and at this meeting his successor or (as well as other town officers) was appointed. He controlled the "watch," executed the commands of the Court, or warrants from magistrates; broke up tipplers; raised the "hue and cry" and could summon other citizens to assist

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she allowed no such heathenish survival. Not one mention is anywhere made in her records of liquor for bound-goers; she ordered her bounds to "be Rund" according to Court order, but that, which under some circumstances would make them run more smoothly, was wanting."

him in the performance of his duties. He also passed on any vagabond and objectionable persons to the constables of the next term, who in turn, passed him into the next, until the person finally was landed in the town to which he legally belonged. He was the embodiment of the law, but the duties were arduous and mostly unpleasant and not sought after. To many a citizen the payment of the fine of 40s. was preferable to acceptance of such an office.<sup>1</sup>

The functions of the constable, as a town officer, being *quasi*-military in character will also be considered under the head of the Town's Military Organization; as also will be *The Watch or Guard* rendered necessary in every town, by the exigencies of these early times.

With the increase of population, wealth, etc., in the new communities, special officers had to be appointed—such as *Collectors* of rates; *Surveyors*; *Recorder*, or *Town Clerk*; *house viewers*; *chimney viewers*; *public whippers*; *cattle herders*; *sheep masters*; *ordinary* (or tavern) *keepers*; *way wardens*; *pounders* (later haywarders); *town perambulators*;<sup>1</sup> *town meeting warners*; *town criers*, etc. In nearly every case, save of townsmen, town officers were the result of an order of the General Court to that effect.

There was also a series of officers which were ordered by the same authority, to be appointed, and which were due to the commercial activity of the settlements—and were more intermittently elected—such as *meat packers*, *horse branders*, *sealers of leather*, *examiner of yarns*, etc., each of whom took the oath before the magistrate, and received as pay the fees of his office. Then, there was the *sealer of weights and measures* (the standard of which was originally procured from England) generally chosen by the town.

*Collectors of Rates* were special officers—and appointed by the General Court in the early days of the Colony, when there were three rates levied—and, ultimately four. These rates were (1) the *country* rate, or amount paid by each town to the Colony; and which was collected and transmitted by the constable; (2) the *town* rate, established by the town at each annual meeting and levied upon each inhabitant, according to the list of taxable estate; (3) the *minister's* rate, levied and collected in the same manner as the town rate; and (4) the *school* rate, first mentioned on Wethersfield records in 1658.

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<sup>1</sup> The office was frequently declined in Wethersfield. In 1691, seven men were elected one after another, and each refused to accept office.—*Wethersfield T. Votes*, Dec. 28, 1691.

In addition to these regular rates, were some of a special, minor, or occasional character—such as the *seat* rate (similar to our present sale of pews—with this difference, that the seat was assigned by a seating committee, who determined the amount of the rate—which could, if so desired, by the party thus seated, be paid off in work for the town); the *meadow* rate, for building and repairing the common fence; the *Watch* rate, for defraying the cost of the “watch and ward” maintained by the town, and various lesser rates to meet exceptional appropriations.

Many of the town and colony expenses were met by *fines*—which were for various forms of offense, and oftentimes, by no means inconsiderable as to amount. Town fines were for allowing elders, briars and weeds to grow in the highways; for leaving the meadow gates open; for neglect of fences; for having unruly cattle or swine; for carrying off timber; for the felling of trees by outsiders; for failure to work on highways, or commons; for neglect of official duties; or for declining to serve in office when elected thereto.

Payment of these fines, as well as of debts, in the early beginning of the colony, was necessarily permissible “in kind”—wheat, pease, Indian corn, sound, dry and well dressed—and, at a later date, rye were used—and a regular schedule of prices made anew every few years, which determined the value of each kind and quality of grain. By 1695, people began to pay half in current colonial currency, and ultimately, as their means increased, current money became the established method of paying all rates. Grains, etc., thus used in payment of rates had to be carried to and stored in the custody of the Collector, unless—as in Windsor—the town built a barn for the special purpose—and from the fund thus accumulated at the collector’s the town paid its debts. It was not until the close of the century that collectors got into the way of making annual reports to the town. If Wethersfield officials were as conscientious and thorough-going as those of Windsor, in their dealings with delinquent rate payers, the latter must have had to “toe the mark” promptly. After due allowance of a reasonable time for payment, the tax bill was placed by the townsmen in the hands of a committee, who were empowered, first, to seize what corn they might find, and if that was not enough to satisfy the debt, “then of what of *any* goods that come to hand;” and the debtor was allowed three days’ time in which to pay up the debt and “redeem the goods distrayned,” besides paying “2*d* in a shilling over and above the total of his debt, as a fee, to those who distrained his goods. If he neglected so to redeem them, the goods were to be appraised “by indifferent men,”



who were to sell the goods, pay the debt and return balance (if any) to the debtor.<sup>1</sup>

The officers concerned in the collection of rates were the *Lister*, who made up the list of estate, an associate who made out the rate; the *Collector*, to whom the rates were paid; and the *Inspector* (a temporary official) whose duty it was to see that no estate was omitted from the country list.

*Surveyors*.—Of these, two were annually chosen, whose duties were the surveying of lines of fences, common lands, etc.; as well as the laying out and supervision of the construction, or repair, of highways.

*Recorder or Town Clerk*.—This most important and responsible office was established by the General Court, in 1639. The clerk was to "keep a record of every man's house and land," and to present "a fairly written" copy of such to every General Court to be recorded by the secretary of the colony. He was, also, to keep a record of births, marriages and deaths in the town, due notice of which was to be given him within three days after the event, under penalty of five shillings fine. Mr. MATTHEW MITCHELL, a most estimable citizen and well qualified for the duties of the office, was the first choice of the people of Wethersfield. But, the Court, for some reason now unknown, and apparently with some injustice, refused to confirm his election, as appears from the following:

"April 11, 1640, Mr. Mitchell is returned Recorder for the Towne of Wythersfield, but he is found incapable of the place, lying vnder censure of the Corte, and he and the Towne who chose him to that place are to have notice to apeare at the next adjournment of the Corte. They are to have liberty to bring in their Records of their lands, vntill the General Corte in September next." (*Conn. Col. Rec. I*, 48.)

But, Mr. Mitchell, evidently with the backing of his fellow townsmen who had elected him, entered upon the duties of the office. This defiance of the Court's order (which has been cited (*Andrews' River Towns*, p. 124,) as the only instance found of a Town's unwillingness to obey a Court order), was promptly dealt with by the Court, in the following order:

"June 11, 1640. Yf Mr. Mitchell shall give satisfaction to Mr. Chaplin in some publike meeting, as p<sup>r</sup>te of his censure, by acknowledging his fault, in such form and manner as he hath related to this Corte. It is referred to the p<sup>r</sup>ticular Corte to continue or take off his former censure as they shall see cause."

<sup>1</sup> *Windsor Rec.*, Dec. 10, 1695, also *Code of 1650. Col. Rec.*, 1., 550.

"The said Mr. Mitchell for vndertaking the office of Town Clarke or Recorder, notwithstanding this vncapableness of such office by censure of Corte, he is fyned to pay the Country Twenty Nobles."

"That p<sup>r</sup>te of the Towne of Wythersfield who chose the said Mr. Mitchell to office notwithstanding the censure of Corte, are fyned to the Country five pounds." *Conn. Col. Rec.* I, p. 51.

"July 2, 1640. Mr. Mytchel hath this day returned vnto Court, his acknowledgment to Mr. Chaplin, and for that, w<sup>th</sup> other considerations, for former extraordinary charges w<sup>ch</sup> he hath formerly borne for publike services at the Forte, the Court hath remitted his former censure." *Conn. Col. Rec.* I, p. 55.

These later orders give us a slight clue to the cause of the Court's rejection of Mr. Mitchell as Town Recorder. It was probably the outcome of some enmity towards him on the part of Mr. Clement Chaplin, whose position as Ruling Elder and a man of wealth and influence gained for him the ear of the Court; a "pull" which he was not slow to use against those who (as in the case of Rev. Henry Smith), stood in the way of his own plans, or wishes.

*Fence-Viewers* were appointed, to "keep an eye upon" the general conditions of fences and boundary lines throughout the town, and to warn and complain of any who neglected to keep their fences in repair. See, also, Chapter XIV.

*Chimney-Viewers* were occasionally chosen in town-meeting; their functions were to make provision against the occurrence of fires, and for the escape of persons in burning houses, either by ladders, or by "trees in place of ladders." They also maintained careful supervision of any neglect, or of dangerous conditions in or about dwellings, which might lead to a fire. The first mention of such an officer in Wethersfield is that of Serg't JOHN CURTIS, Jr., in 1708.

*Cattle-Herders.*—The *earliest* Town Vote preserved in *Weth. Records*<sup>1</sup> relates to the appointment of a herder thus: "This 16th day of March, 1646 [1647].

"RICH. BELDEN hath couenanted w<sup>th</sup> the Towne to kepe the Cowes and Oxsen, to the number of twelve score, or 12 scor, or ten, at four and [twenty] pounds. If above 12 scor, then 2s for euery one aboue the number of [        ]; and if ther be vnder 12 scor, the same sum of 24 pounds. And the Towne hath p'mised to pay the said Rich. in 4 equall paye; on[e] fourth in wheat; on 4th in pease; on fourth in barley; on fourth in Indean; sound, dry and well drest. And the said Rich.

<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Records*, Vol. I., p. 25.

is to go out w<sup>h</sup> the Catell in the midle of Aprill, if the Towne se met, and the wether be fit. His time is to end at the 11th of Nouember. The wheat and barley and corne is to be payd to the said Rich. a week before Mickeltid; and the Indean when it is dry and marchantable, about a month after his time be out. And euery on shall bring in his Corne to the said Rich., in any place in Wethersfield, wher he shall apoint w<sup>th</sup> in the Towne. The said Rich. desires twenty shillings of this pay, if it can be gotten."

The next year, *four* "Cowkeepers" were appointed, by the following recorded Town-Vote of<sup>1</sup> "The seco: of May, 1648.

"The townsmen hath hired Will. Belden, Sam. Belden, Will. Gull, Beniam [Benjamin] Hilliard, to kepe the Towne Heard, from the midle of Aprill to the eleuenth of Nou. next insuing the day hearof. Will. Beldan & Will. Gull doth but stand in the stead of one man; that is to say: one one wek & the other the next week; and so to continue till the time be expired. And these thre parties are to haue thirten pounds apeece, in good, sound & dry & well condicioned wheat and pease, of equall valew; half of nine and thirtye pounds in wheat & the other half in pease. The paye is to be into any house in the midle of the Towne w<sup>h</sup> the said Cowkeepers shall apoint. The daye of payement is to be w<sup>th</sup>in a fourteen-nights after Mickeltid. They are to haue on the first Saboth on man to help them to keep Cowes, & on the next tow; and so, one each Sab., & tow of the other Saboth; and euery Wedensday one man. And if any of them be sick that they be not able to goe out, the Towne is to set one in their stead. And the said Kowkeepers doth ingage themselves to do their vtmost to heard the Catell well, and to p'serue them from danger of Wolves, or any other casseltie, as fur as it lies in them. It was further agreed that for the space of thre weeks, that one of these men shall take a hundred of the Catell, at the north end of the Towne, and heard them by themselves, towards Hartford bounds; & then to heard them together till a fourteen nights before Mickeltide; and then to heard a hundred of them apart. And they are to goe out w<sup>th</sup>in an houre after sun rise, and not to[o] early at night in coming home; and after they come to go into the mea[dow]; tow of them is constantly to driue down & to fetch vp the Cows at night. They are to eather haue a horne, to call out Cowes, or els to holow; so that people may haue notice sufficient to put out their Cattell to them."—See, also, Chapter XIV.

"*Sheep Masters*," or *Shepherds*, were no less necessary or important officials of the Town than were the cattle herders; and both

<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, Vol. I., p. 31.

offices were deemed not unworthy of the acceptance of men of position and character.

"Att the same meeting it was voted and agreed that Serg<sup>t</sup> Kilburne and Mr [Josiah] Willard shall be impowered hereby to mannage affairs concerning sheepe in this Towne, according to law. [Feb. 24, 1673-4].<sup>1</sup>

"Jan<sup>e</sup> 1st, 1674-5.

"At a Towne meeting it was voated, acted, granted, by the Towne, that the two Hucklebury hills, and so much of Sleepy Plain as, with the s<sup>d</sup> Hucklebury hills shall amount to one thousand acres of land, shall be a settled Common; to remain to the use of the Towne of Wethersfield in generall, for the feeding of sheep or cattell forever."<sup>2</sup>

*The Pounder*, (*Impounder*, or, as later called, the *Hawarden*). The Code of 1650 required that each town provide at least one *pound*, for the impounding of swine and cattle. It is probable that one existed at Wethersfield before this date; for, in October of that year, THOMAS TRANGSTON was chosen "pinder" of cattle and horses, and to have two pence each beast he impounded; "according to former order."

On the east side of the River, a pound was authorized, by the Town, in Feb., 1673-4. In 1680, it was voted that "any yard, at Naiog or Naubuck, shall be accounted a lawful pound." In 1683, the Town again authorized the people on the east side to build a pound, "on the Town charge." At Rocky Hill a pound was established by the Town in 1694.

The Pounder's duties were supplementary to those of the Fence Viewer. The former looked after the condition of fences, so as to prevent the annoyance and damage done by cattle, swine, etc., in breaking through them; but if said animals broke through and ranged the roads, or intruded into neighbors' fields—then the Pounder's interference was looked for.

In connection with this subject, we have the following extract from the *Wethersfield Records*:

"Its ordered by the Townsmen, and voted by the Towne, that: euery on as driues his Hodgs, and driues them nott 2 milles from the meddow fence, or from the Towne—shall pay 2<sup>d</sup> to him as find any on[e] neglectitt. And for Hogs as be kept att home, they must be either well ringed, or yoked; or else kept in sties or yards."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 142.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 142.

<sup>3</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, Vol. I, p. 48.



*Ordinary (or Tavern) Keepers.* Taverns, Inns, or as they were more generally termed in the olden days, Ordinaries, were then more of a real necessity than now, when the introduction of steamboats and railroads permits of the traveler making larger journeys between halting places, than formerly. They were then most rigorously limited in number, and were licensed (generally by the General or County Court) with special reference to their location and the character of those who applied for permission to keep them.

Undoubtedly there was an ordinary in Wethersfield much earlier than any date to which we can name any particular keeper of one. The first whose name appears upon our records, is Richard Smith, Jun.; who was appointed a ferry-keeper and taverner, in Feb., 1673-4. His place was "in New London road"; (that is, on the east bank of the River, at what was then the eastern terminus of the ferry, since called Pratt's ferry; the River at that time flowing close to the high ground east of what is now Keeney's Cove), and he was to "give entertainment to strangers and travelers, in the same road, as occasion may serve."

On the same day, John Belden was "chosen ordinary keeper, for the entertainment of straingers and travillers, as the law requires."<sup>2</sup> Belden was at this time the owner of two houses; one on each side of Broad Street. The tavern was probably on the west side; being the house formerly the homestead of Nathaniel Dickinson, who sold it to Belden.

Under the Andros government, in March, 1688, Corp. Nathaniel Bowman was licensed a taverner for Wethersfield center; Serg. Samuel Hale for Naubuck; and Serg. Richard Beckley for Beckley Quarter. Joseph Rowlandson was at the same time licensed to "sell drinks." He was a son of the minister of that name.

Other early tavern keepers were: John Devotion, licensed in 1713, came from Boston, and afterward removed to Suffield;<sup>3</sup> Benjamin Belden, licensed in 1714; Corp. John Francis, 1717.

*Meat Packers.*—In October, 1662, a law was passed requiring the several towns to choose a person to "pack and re-pack all such meat as is sent forth of y<sup>e</sup> Townes"; the meats in question being mainly pork, and some beef. They were required to brand each cask inspected with the letters "C. R."

The names of such officers do not generally appear in the Wethersfield records. Indeed, the first one mentioned is Joseph Edwards,

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<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 141.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, I., p. 142.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 304.

chosen in January, 1679-80. In 1716, Martin Kellogg was chosen "Packer and Guager."

*Horse-Branders.*—This office, established by the General Court in 1661, was one of some importance. The brander, in addition to branding, was obliged to keep a book, in which he was to carefully enter the fact of such branding, together with all the natural and artificial marks of the horses, etc., for which his fee was 6*d* for each horse so branded, and 20*d* penalty for every neglect, etc. See, also, Chapter XIV.

*Sealer of Weights and Measures.*—This office was first provided for by the General Court, in April, 1643. The order creating the office also made the appointment, for Wethersfield, of FRANCIS NORTON, as the first incumbent thereof. In February, of the following year, the clerks of the several towns were required to "seal" such weights and measures as were found correct, on a certain day in each year. But it was the custom of the Town to choose an officer whose special duty it was to seal them; they being compared with the County standards, kept at Hartford.

*Leather Sealers.*—In 1656, the General Court, in consequence of complaints of frauds practiced by tanners and curriers in preparing leather and hides—provided that each town should choose two inspectors, or "sealers," of leather, whose duty it should be to inspect the leather, at the tanneries, and mark, or "seal" such as should be found "sufficient in all points," and seize such as should be offered for sale before inspection, and providing penalties, etc.

The first Leather Sealer whose *name* appears in the Wethersfield records is that of Serg. JOHN NOTT, in February, 1673-4. He held the same office in 1682. "Mr." THOMAS FITCH held it in 1692; THOMAS WICKHAM held it in 1716.

*Grave Digger.*—In 1680 EMANUEL BUCK was chosen by the Town, to dig all graves. He was allowed 4*s* each for graves of "grown" people, and 3*s* each for all other graves.

*Inspectors.*—The General Court, from time to time, provided for the appointment of persons, in each township, to inspect certain articles produced therein. In 1641, Inspectors of *Pipe-staves* were required. In 1642, in order to prevent such a slaughtering of calves as to cause a scarcity of meat cattle, it was provided that the Towns choose two of their citizens to grant or withhold permission to *butcher calves*. In 1643, Inspectors of *Weights and Measures* were provided; and Francis Norton was chosen by the General Court to inspect weights and measures in Wethersfield. In 1645, the office of Inspector of *linen and woolen*

yarns was created. In 1654, rules for the inspection and "sealing" of leather were established. In 1674, each town was required to choose an Inspector of grain and pork; much of the latter being then exported, in a salted condition. And so of fish, lumber, and other articles which might be mentioned.

The names of inspectors, by that title merely, do not often appear on the records of Wethersfield. In 1689, John Russell and Jonathan Deming, Jun., were chosen inspectors; without it being stated what were the articles of which they had jurisdiction.

FREEMEN.—The germ, so to speak, of the "body politic"—both as to Town and Colony, was in the "freemen"—or those "inhabitants" of the Town, who, according to the "Fundamental Articles" of 1639, had been admitted to residence by vote of the "major part of the Towne wherein they live"; and, who, by virtue of their having taken the Oath of Fidelity, were entitled to vote in the election of Town's deputies to the General Court. Before 1657, freemanship was conferred upon all above 16 years of age who brought a certificate of good behavior from the Town (*Col. Rec.* I, 139). One who would fully understand the whole subject should read Andrews' masterly analysis in *The River Towns of Connecticut*. See, also, Note, p. 41, *ante*.

*The General Court of Connecticut* (called at times the Court of Elections), first sat at Hartford, April 26, 1636, under a commission from Governor Winthrop, of Massachusetts, empowering it "to govern the people at Connecticut, for the space of a year." Its members were William Pyncheon, of Agawaum (now *Springfield*, Mass.); Roger Ludlow and William Phelps of Dorchester (now *Windsor*); John Steele and William Westwood, of Newtown, (now *Hartford*); William Swayne and Rev. Henry Smith, of Watertown, (now *Wethersfield*). Pyncheon, Swayne and Smith were absent from the first and some of the subsequent sessions of this Court. With the exception of one session at Windsor and one at Wethersfield in 1636, this Court was held continuously at Hartford, until after the union of the Connecticut with the New Haven Colonies, and, indeed, until 1706. After the latter date, several sessions were held at New London; but generally, the sessions alternated between Hartford and New Haven, until Hartford became the sole capital.

This General Court was constituted, by the Constitution, or "Fundamental Orders," of 1639, of not less than seven *magistrates*, whereof one was to be the Governor, and four *deputies* from each town, in the Colony—all to be chosen by the freemen of the respective towns. By

the Fundamental Orders of 1639, this Court was also made a "Court of Elections," for choosing a Governor "and other magistrates." In 1662, this General Court, for the first time, called itself *The General Assembly*; and in May, 1678, there was formed from it a body known as *The Governor and Council*, consisting of the Governor, the Deputy-Governor, and at least three Assistants; this Council generally met at New London, and it existed until 1819. In the same year (1662), the term *Assistant*<sup>1</sup> was substituted by the Royal Charter for that of *Magistrate*,<sup>2</sup> and also in the Charter of that date. In May, 1698, the General Court, or Assembly, was divided into two sections, known respectively as the "Upper House," consisting of the Governor, or his Deputy, and the Assistants; and the "Lower House," consisting of the deputies of the several towns. So that, what were first known as "Magistrates," and then as "Assistants," later (1819) became *Senators*. In like manner the term "Deputy" gave way to that of *Representative*.<sup>3</sup>

*Justices of the Peace and Quorum*.—The first act providing for Justices of the Peace, was that passed by Governor Andros' Council, at Boston, March 3rd, 1686. "His Majesties Justices" were authorized to hold Special Courts in the Dominion of New England, in their respective precincts, when the matter in demand did not exceed six shil-

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<sup>1</sup> The Charter itself named the assistants for the first Assembly—the Governor and Assistants were empowered by it to admit "freemen," and choose the deputies for the several towns, not exceeding two for each township: and the Assistants did not then (as their successors the Senators) represent any district or section. In Oct., 1665, they were constituted a Court which became, about 1711, the predecessor of the present Superior Court. It was not until May, 1699, that the Gen. Assembly met as two separate houses—being previously convened in one and the same apartment.

Some writers, Pres. Dwight especially, constantly refer to these officers as "Councillors"—a term which more properly belongs to the members of the Council of War, as it was commonly called.

<sup>2</sup> In their collective capacity, these *Magistrates* had the power to hold what was termed the *Particular Court*, and, individually, to hear and determine certain small cases, both civil and criminal, which, from time to time, were defined by the Gen. Court; and this upper section of the Gen. Ct. retained the name of Magistrates, until the adoption of the charter, Oct., 1662, when they rec'd the title of *Assistants*. William Swayne "Gentleman" was the first Magistrate chosen from Wethersfield, July, 1643; the next, Gov. Thomas Welles then recently come from Hartford, held the office from 1644-1654. Richard Treat was also a magistrate from 1658-1662. For list of Magistrates, see APPENDIX.

<sup>3</sup> These *deputies* took the place of what had previously (from May, 1637, to January, 1640, inclusive) been called the "committees;" and in the Gen. Court they elected the "Assistants" in that body. At the April session, 1640, Wethersfield had four out of the 12 deputies elected, viz.: Thurston Raynor, James Boosey, Geo. Hubbard and Rich. Crabbe. In the following February, Samuel Smith took Raynor's



lings in value; but not to hear any cause wherein the title to land was involved. They might also summon a jury, to determine a question of fact.

Such officers were commissioned by Andros; and one of his appointees for Hartford County was the famous Gershom Bulkeley, of Wethersfield. He being politically, a strong Tory, became one of the "Usurper's" most subservient officers; evidence of which is seen in his "Letter" to the Connecticut Convention, of 1689.

*Justices of the Quorum* were such as, being specifically authorized thereto in their commissions, might sit, as side judges, with a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, or County Court, in their respective counties. Such a class of justices of the peace was provided for, both in the Andros law, and in that of the Connecticut Colony, in 1698. The latter was the date when the office of justice was created by our legislature. They were to be commissioned by the General Assembly, to the number of three or four, at least, in each county; and to hold office "during the Court's (Assembly's) pleasure." Capt. JOHN CHESTER and Lieut. JAMES TREAT, both of Wethersfield, were commissioned, in May of that year; and the former was designated as a Justice of the *Quorum*.<sup>1</sup>

*State Officers.*—Wethersfield has not been prominent in furnishing these, directly; but more could trace their descent through her

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place. From this time to 1662, Wethersfield (except at two or three sessions) had four deputies at the Gen. Court—a larger number than any other town except Hartford and Windsor; and even these as a rule, sent only two. The Gen. Court, in October, 1661, reduced the number to two. But Wethersfield continued to send four until 1663, when the Charter of 1662, being in operation, she complied with the limitations of that instrument, and sent only two—Samuel Boardman and Sergt. John Nott. In 1698, the term "representative," as a synonym for "deputy," was first used; but dropped the next year; and thereafter, until 1708, the office was usually called *deputy*. After that date, both terms were used, until the adoption of the State Constitution, when the name *Representative* came into general use.

The "*committees*" was originally the "lower house" of the Gen. Ct. At the May session 1637, there were nine and of these Clermont Chaplin, Matthew Mitchell and [John?] Sherman were from Wethersfield. In the March term there were twelve in all, And. Ward, Geo. Hubbard, John Gibbs and Thurston Raynor being from Wethersfield. In April, 1638, the Wethersfield representatives were Raynor, Hubbard, and And. Ward; in April, 1639, Raynor Hubbard, James Boosey and Rich. Crabbe. In Aug., same yr., Ward and Capt. Thos. Topping took the place of Raynor and Crabbe, and these remained in office or members of the Committee, until April, 1640, when they took office as *deputies*.

<sup>1</sup> COMMISSIONERS.—These officers were occasionally appointed by the General Court, as early as 1640; generally for some plantation not conveniently near the place of session of that body; at Fairfield, Stratford (then called Cupheag and Uncoa, respectively), or on Long Island. Their functions were analogous to those of our

children. Excepting THOMAS WELLES, 1655-6 and 1658-9, no Governor has been taken directly from this township. He was also Deputy-Governor for several terms.

In the *upper* branch of the *General Assembly*, (called Magistrates, and Assistants, until 1818), the following came from Wethersfield:—William Swayne, 1643-5; Thomas Welles, 1644-54; Richard Treat, Sen., 1658-65; Capt. Samuel Talcott, 1685-92; Major John Chester, 1701-12; Col. John Chester, son of Major John, 1747-56; Stephen Mix Mitchell, 1784-93; Colonel John Chester, son of Colonel John, above, 1788-92 and 1803-9; Judge Martin Welles, 1827-9. The foregoing were elected *at large*; there having been no senatorial districts prior to 1830. To the First Senatorial district, Wethersfield has contributed Dr. Samuel B. Woodward, 1832-3; General Martin Kellogg, 1837-8; William Robbins, 2nd, 1841-2; Gen. James T. Pratt, 1852-3; Henry K. W. Welch, 1862-3. The latter was, at the time of his election, a resident of Hartford. Since 1881, Wethersfield has been part of the Second Senatorial district, and has been represented by Silas W. Robbins and Elizur S. Goodrich.

*Judges.*—Prior to the Charter of 1662, the several Courts were not as definitely constituted, as separate from the legislative branch of the government as subsequently thereto. The *General Court*, which exercised both legislative and judicial functions, was composed of the members of both branches of that body, sitting and voting together, until after it became divided into two sections in 1698. And a list of the Judges of that Court, would be the same as a roll of members present at the several sessions of the General Assembly for the time being. Until 1699 all its members, of both branches, sat in one apartment, as *one* body.

The *Particular Court*, sometimes called the *Quarter Court*, was organized in 1638. Its judges were a quorum of the members of the

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justices of the peace and notaries public. After 1666 they were invested with "Magistratical powers." The office was practically superseded in 1698, by that of justice of peace.

The first Commissioner appointed for Wethersfield was Gov. Tho. Welles, in 1659; Sam. Boardman was appointed in 1662; Sam. Welles (son of the Governor), in 1665, and for several years thereafter; John Nott in 1667; Capt. John Chester and Lieut. Sam. Talcott in 1678.

There was, also, another kind of Commissioner provided for by the Act of 1687, passed by Gov. Andros' Council, at Boston. Each town in the Dominion of New England was to choose a Commissioner to *collect internal revenue*. Pursuant to this law, Wethersfield, in 1688, chose Sam. Butler, Sen., and the next year Lieut. James Treat, for this office. These, the only ones chosen, were relics of the Andros "Usurpation."

upper branch of the *General Court*; who were *ex officio* members of the Particular Court. This Court tried cases by the jury. Its sessions, prior to the union with New Haven Colony, were held in Hartford; and it had jurisdiction of misdemeanors and small civil causes. In 1666 it was superseded by the County Court. Among its judges, the following were from Wethersfield: THOMAS WELLES, the Governor, 1639-59; WILLIAM SWAYNE, 1643-4; RICHARD TREAT, Sen., 1658-63.

*The Court of Assistants*, established in 1665, consisted of seven, at least, of the Assistants, or members of the upper branch of the General Assembly, the Governor presiding. It had original jurisdiction of crimes involving life, limb or banishment; and appellate jurisdiction of civil causes from the County Court. But this jurisdiction was modified in the revised Statutes of 1672. It existed until 1711, when it was superseded by the Superior Court. Its sessions, like those of the General Court, were holden only in Hartford prior to 1701; after that, the May sessions were held at Hartford, and its October sessions at New Haven. The following named members of this Court were from Wethersfield:—Capt. SAMUEL TALCOTT, 1687 and 1690; Major JOHN CHESTER, 1701-8, and 1710-11.

*The County Court* was established for the four counties then in being, in 1666; and was the successor of the Particular Court. Like that Court, it had, among other powers, those now exercised by Courts of Probate. Hartford County at this time included the "River" towns, and Farmington, down to and including Haddam. The judges of this Court were: One of the Assistants, as chief; with two Commissioners (afterward, in 1698, called Justices of the Peace), as side judges. Changes were afterward made in the *personnel* of this tribunal, which want of space forbids us to state. Nor have we taken the trouble, which would be considerable, to ascertain the names of such of its members as came from Wethersfield. In 1838, the act providing for the appointment of County Commissioners, made them, *ex officio*, associate judges of the County Court, in certain highway and bridge cases. In other cases, three justices of the peace, of the *quorum*, constituted the Court, when the judge could not sit. The County Court was abolished in 1855; but practically revived in 1869, under the name of the Court of Common Pleas.

*Courts of Probate*.—These were established in 1698; it being then provided that the Judge of the County Court, with two justices of the *quorum*, should take cognizance of the probate of wills, etc. In 1716, it was made a separate tribunal, consisting of a judge and a clerk. The

districts at this time were co-extensive with the counties. The first Probate district, less than a county in extent, was established in 1719; when the Towns of Windham, Lebanon, Coventry, Mansfield, Canterbury, Plainfield, Killingly, Pomfret and Ashford, were constituted a Probate district. In 1725, these same townships were formed into a county, called Windham. Also, in 1719, Guilford, Killingworth, Saybrook, Branford and Durham, were constituted a Probate district; and in 1728 the same townships, with the addition of Haddam, were formed into a county, and it was named Middlesex. It will thus be seen that, for some years, the probate records of some towns now wholly outside of Hartford County were kept in Hartford, where they may still be found.

The Hartford Probate district has been narrowed down to its present limits, by the carving of successive probate districts out of it. The last district formed from the Hartford district, was that of Manchester, which was made a separate one in 1850. Wethersfield has always been in the Hartford district. The judges were chosen by the legislature down to 1850. We are unable to furnish a list of such as came from Wethersfield.

*Superior Court.*—This tribunal was established in 1711, as the successor to the Court of Assistants. At first it was presided over by a Chief Judge (usually the Governor, or the Deputy-Governor), and four Associate Judges, usually members of the Upper house of the General Assembly. But in 1784, the Legislature declared that the office of a Judge of the Superior Court was incompatible with that of a member of either branch of the Legislature, or of Congress. Until 1818, it was a *Circuit* Court, the records being carried from county to county, and the Court going with them. The following are the Judges of this Court who have come from Wethersfield:—Col. ELISHA WILLIAMS, 1740-43; STEPHEN MIX MITCHELL, 1795-1807, 1807-14, Chief Judge THOMAS SCOTT WILLIAMS, 1829-47; Chief Judge THOMAS BELDEN BUTLER, 1856-73; Chief Judge ELISHA CARPENTER, 1861 to the present time. The latter resided in Wethersfield during only a part of his term.

*Supreme Court of Errors.*—In 1784, it was enacted that the Lieutenant-Governor and seven members of the Upper House should constitute this, as a court to review the decisions of the Superior Court. In 1793, the Governor was made, *ex officio*, the Chief Judge. In 1806, the Judges of the Superior, sitting collectively, were made the Supreme Court of Errors. This was, with some modification, re-enacted in 1818. Judges of this Court are also judges of the Superior Court; but, since



1870, the number of judges of the latter Court has been increased to eleven, including the five judges of the Supreme Court.

The following are the members of the *Supreme Court* who have come from Wethersfield:—

STEPHEN MIX MITCHELL, 1784-93 and 1807-14, being Chief Judge during the latter term; JOHN CHESTER, 1788-92 and 1803-7; THOMAS SCOTT WILLIAMS, 1829-47, being Chief Judge 1843-47; THOMAS BELDEN BUTLER, 1861-73, being Chief Judge 1870-3, the time of his death; ELISHA CARPENTER, 1865 to the time of his death. Besides these, Judges CHAUNCEY GOODRICH, 1802-7, and ELIZUR GOODRICH, 1803-7—were sons of the Rev. Elizur Goodrich, whose long line of ancestors (running back to 1636)—were Wethersfield people.

*Town Courts* were established in 1639. They consisted of three, five or seven of their principal inhabitants, one of whom was its sworn "Moderator." Its sessions were bi-monthly, and it had jurisdiction to the extent of forty shillings. In 1669, its *personnel* was one Assistant, or Commissioner, with at least two of its Selectmen. In 1672, one Assistant, or (in towns where no Assistant dwelt), two Selectmen, constituted the Court. This Court seems to have been superseded, in 1698, by the provision then made for Justices of the Peace.

*Sheriffs*.—Prior to the union with New Haven Colony, the highest peace officer was the "Marshall General" of the Colony, appointed by the General Court. After the formation of the counties in 1666, a Marshall was appointed for each county, by the County Court, until 1702. At the latter date, the name of the office was changed to that of Sheriff for the County, still appointed by the County Court—and "High" Sheriff for the Colony. In 1724, the appointing power was conferred upon the "Governor and Council." By the Constitution of 1818, the General Assembly is made the appointing power. By an Amendment thereto, adopted in 1838, the electors of the county are required to elect the Sheriff.

*County Commissioners*.—The office of Commissioner of a County, was created in 1838; when the office of Associate Judge of the County Court was abolished. It was then provided that two Commissioners, for each county, should be annually appointed by the General Assembly; and that they should be, *ex officio*, associate judges of that Court, in certain highway and bridge cases, licensing of taverns, and the appointments of jailors, etc. In 1841, their number was increased to three, and they were given the *exclusive* power to manage the prop-

erty of the County; remove deputy sheriffs from office and administer the oath to poor debtors. Plank roads, turnpike-gates and telegraph posts have also been matters within their jurisdiction. In 1855, the County Court being then abolished—they, of course, ceased to be side judges of that Court. In 1872, the authority to grant licenses to sell intoxicating liquors was vested in them. Very complete lists of Wethersfield Town Officers and of Wethersfield men who have filled County, Colonial and State offices, from 1636 to the present time, will be found in APPENDIX XI.

NEW INTER-TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENTS.—It was not, however, at *distant* places only, that new settlements were planted with scions from the original Pyquaug stock. As we have already seen, as early as 1639, lands had been plotted at Hoccanum and Naubuc (as it was afterwards called), on the *east* side of the Great River; and thither, not many years later, some of the Wethersfield settlers sought new homes. Here it was that the first *inter-territorial* settlement from Wethersfield took root and flourished.<sup>1</sup>

*Glastonbury.*<sup>2</sup>—The precise period when Glastonbury was first settled, is not easy to determine. Nor is it easy to say *who* was its first white settler. The first owners of land there were people who owned and lived upon lands in Wethersfield village. It is probable that the pioneer settlers on the east side were young men, whose lands were given them by their fathers living on the west side. The lots being three miles long from the River on the west to the hills on the east, presented every variety of farm land, and the waterpower afforded by the east side streams was even superior to that of the west side. Hence it was, that both Naubuc and Nayaug were settled before the West Farms (Newington), Rocky Hill, or Beckley's Quarter were occupied.

Dr. Chapin does not directly say who was the *pioneer* of the east side; but leaves it to be inferred (so far as we can judge) that Joseph (Josiah ?) Gilbert, as tenant of Lieut. John Hollister, was the man; and that the house so erected was at Nayaug, prior to 1651. If we were to hazard an opinion, founded on evidence afforded by the *Wethersfield Land Records*, we should say that the claim to priority lies between THOMAS EDWARDS (son of John, the Settler), and SAMUEL GARDNER. Edwards is described as living "at Hoccanum in Wethersfield," as early as the 9th of January, 1649, (Jan. 19, 1650, N. S.), at which date he entered for record an *additional* piece of land, on the east side

<sup>1</sup> *Conn. Col. Rec.*, 1., p. 63.

<sup>2</sup> Sometimes, in old records, spelled *Glassenbury*, and *Glastenbury*.

of the River, given him by his father, who had bought it of John Plumb, when the latter removed to Stamford. How long Edwards had been living at Hoccanum does not appear. His father was one of the original distributees of 1639, on the east side, but the tract he then received was too far south to be in Hoccanum, unless that name, at that time, included what was afterwards called Naubuc. The lot on which Thomas built was traversed by Frog Brook, as it would seem. This was also true of the lot of 225 acres bought by John Talcott of Richard Gildersleeve in 1641; and that of 90 acres bought of William Gibbons, also of Hartford, from Wm. Rogers, in 1641. It is probable that Tho. Edwards lived on one of these lots, either as tenant of William Gibbons ("yeoman," but a man of wealth), or, what is more likely, Edwards exchanged his lot of 204 acres with Mr. Gibbons, which neither of the parties recorded until 1649. It was this land, occupied already for a long time, on which Thomas Edwards was required, by the order of the General Court, in 1663, to construct a bridge across Frog Pond, and to be assisted therein by "the rest of the inhabitants at Hockanum, all above sixteen years old." SAMUEL GARDNER was the owner of lands on both the Hartford and Wethersfield sides of the east and west line dividing Hoccanum. On the Hartford, or north side, he had held a tract since 1640, as the Hartford records seem to indicate, at which time he was, perhaps, a resident of that town. On the Wethersfield side he was the owner of land by purchase from Nathaniel and Robert Foote, as early, probably, as 1645. He sold his house and homelot in Wethersfield to John Coltman, in 1647 or '48; having sold his meadow land in 1646, and, it is probable that, before this he was living at Hoccanum, and down to the time (1659) when he, as well as Thomas Edwards, signed the agreement to remove to Norwattuck (Hadley). Gardner removed thither in 1663; but Edwards remained in Hoccanum. It is probable that the Nathaniel Foote lot, at Naubuck, was the land in "Hoccanum" occupied by Gardner; and that the latter name was then given the tract which later was called Naubuck. The latter name does not appear *at all*, until after 1660; whilst Hoccanum is as old a name as Pyquag. Nathaniel Foote, the senior, had reserved land for a highway, when he recorded his land in 1640; the first road on the east side. The writer does not believe, as does Mr. Goodwin in his *Hist. East Hartford*, that John Saddler, or anyone else, kept an "ordinary" (or "victualling house") in Naubuck, in 1648. Saddler was living in the same street in Wethersfield about this time, with George Chappel, a close neighbor. It is not to be inferred that Saddler's place, wherever it was, was an "ordinary" from the fact that

Chappel was harbored there, when a fugitive from justice. Mr. Goodwin supposes from the fact that the Particular Court, in 1648, forbade Thomas Ford, of Hartford, and John Saddler, from harboring Chappel "at either of the houses aforesaid"; and the further fact that, in 1663, Saddler *did* keep an ordinary at Hoccanum, that he must have kept one there in 1648, and that it was the "house" referred to in the order of the Court. We do not think so; but, we believe that Saddler removed to Hoccanum about 1653, when he sold his meadow and uplands on the west side. Dr. Chapin evidently believes that the Saddler's "ordinary" was on the New London road (now within Marlborough limits), which he says, was in existence at the earliest settlement of the east side; but we think that it was established there at a much later date than the one at Hoccanum, if at all; and that the latter has been confounded with the former one. Saddler retained his dwelling house on the west side of the River, for many years subsequent to 1648.

Far to the south, in fact, the last lot in the Naubuc division, MATTHEW MITCHELL had occupied, by a tenant, a part of his large farm of 900 acres, very soon after he had received it from the Town, in 1639. He raised many cattle and constructed a "cow-pen" a few rods from Sturgeon River. In the famous suit between Gershom Bulkely and John Belden's heirs, on the one side and John Hollister on the other, in 1684-5, this cow-pen figured largely; for it was *near* this that the white oak tree stood, which marked the division line, as an ancient landmark. It had been referred to by Mr. Mitchell in describing his land when entering it for record, in 1641. Witnesses were called in the suit referred to, to show where the "cow-pen" *was*; for it had not existed for many years. Among others, Leonard Dix, living in Wethersfield village, testified that it stood on a "knowle" some distance from an old cave, or cellar, and between it and the brook, six or seven rods from the latter. By it, or near it, the cattle, he said, passed over Sturgeon River. It is quite likely that this old cellar marks the site of the *first house* in present South Glastonbury, if not the first in the present limits of that town. And, it is also probable that the house was erected at the same time with the "pen," or stockade, in which the cattle were herded. It ought to be said that the reference to the "cow-pen" by Mr. Mitchell in the entry of his land in 1641, was an interlineation, in another hand; but it bears the appearance of having been made contemporaneously; and it was mentioned in Mitchell's deed to Robert Coe, in June, 1641. Besides, in the suit in question it seems to have been *conceded* that it was an element in the *original* boundary of the Mitchell tract. This tract, which included Red Hill, had been sold by



Mitchell to Robert Coe; by Coe to Robert Rose; by Rose to John Latimer, and, having been divided by the latter into four equal parts, two of these had come into the possession of Bulkeley and Belden. Mr. John Hollister, whose father, Lieut. John, had held a lot of fifty acres of meadow, "with the upland belonging to it" (as he described it on the records), became involved in a controversy with Bulkeley and the Belden heirs. In the course of this law suit, it appears that disputes arose as early as 1651, when Latimer possessed the Mitchell tract between Lieut. Hollister's tenants, the three brothers of Gilbert (Josiah, Jonathan and John), and Mr. Latimer. The dispute concerned the line dividing the Mitchell from the Hollister tract; the latter claiming a north line  $85\frac{1}{2}$  rods further north than was ultimately allowed him by the Court. It further appeared, or such is the inference, that the Gilberts occupied a house on the Hollister farm, from the beginning of their tenancy, in 1657, which, so far as we can find, was about the date when Hollister built the house there. Hence, we may suppose that the Hollister (or Gilbert) house was *not*, as some have thought, the first house on the east side of the River. In fact, Hollister's land was not *set out* to him until subsequently to 1644; for it was bounded northerly by land *lately* of Robert Rose; the latter having gone to Totoket to live in 1644, and Hollister's not knowing whether Rose continued to hold after that date, accounts for the use of the word "lately."

Mr. RICHARD TREAT was the first owner of land further south than Hollister's. Until 1672 his farm at "Nowake" was adjacent to the "Wilderness," on both the south and the east.

As regards settlers on the east side, Dr. Chapin fixes the number in 1693,<sup>1</sup> at thirty-four "householders"—an estimate based upon the names of signers to the agreement about a site for the proposed meeting-house (in February, 1690-1), for the accommodation of those on that side. The signers numbered twenty-four, viz.:

Ephraim Goodrich	Samuel Hale, Sen.	Samuel Smith
Joseph Smith	Patrick Stearns	John Hubbard
John Harrington	Richard Treat, Sen.	Joseph Hills
Thomas Brewer	Thomas Treat	John Kilbourn
Ebenezer Hale	Richard Smith	Samuel Welles
John Strickland	John Hollister	Thomas Hale
John Hale	Jonathan Smith	Richard Treat, Jr.
William Hone	Samuel Hale, Jr.	Wm. Wickham

<sup>1</sup> *Glastonbury Centennial*, 58.

To these he adds eighteen more, who had come into the place, up to 1693:

Jonathan Hale	Tho. Loveland	Daniel Wright
Benjamin Hale	Joseph Bidwell	David Hollister
Dea. Thos. Hollister	Richard Fox	Edward Benton
Joseph Hollister, Sen.	Nathaniel Talcott	William Miller
Joseph Hollister, Jr.	Dea. Benj. Talcott	Sam. Grimes
Benjamin Smith	Thos. Kimberly	Ephraim Hollister

Of the foregoing, the following drew land in Wethersfield, as "householders that live on the *west* side of Connecticut River."

Samuel Hale, Sen. (Jr in 1693 ?)	Joseph Smith
John Hale	Thos. Hollister
John Kilbourn	Ed. Benton
Jonathan Smith	Thos. Kimberly

But, some of these, viz., Edward Benton, Ebenezer Hale, Lieut. Thomas Hollister, John Kilbourn, Jonathan and Samuel Smith, drew lands in the "West Division" (Newington), in April, 1695, as "inhabitants" of Wethersfield (*i. e.*, of the *west* side); for Glastonbury land had been set off as a separate town in May, 1690. The explanation is, that there were *two* of the same name in some instances. For example, Thomas Hollister, the *Lieutenant*, never lived on the east side, but died in Wethersfield; John Kilbourn, the *Sergeant*, died in Wethersfield, while his son, John, we suppose, moved across the River. Samuel Hale, Sen., is not to be confounded with the *first* of that name who lived in Wethersfield; there were *three* Samuel Smiths in Wethersfield, at or about this time. John Hollister was not *Lieut.* John, the Settler, but a son of his; Richard Treat, Sen., was not Richard the Settler, but his son. Other names were duplicated in the township.

In another place, Dr. Chapin has stated that Gershom Bulkeley, Minister, Surgeon and Attorney, lived on the east side of the River during the last thirty years of his life; and, on this authority, others have reiterated the statement. But, we have been unable to find any evidence that he ever *lived* in Glastonbury; or, that, after he was settled in Wethersfield, he ever removed therefrom, although he was sojourning there at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Treat, at the time of his death.

In the meantime, considerable progress had been made in the development of the east side settlement. A highway, two rods in width, running east and west, had been reserved by Nathaniel Foote, the length of his three-mile lot in 1639. Another one to "Nayaug Farms"

was ordered by the Town in January, 1649-50. Two bridges were builded by order of the General Court, in 1663, one over Frog Brook, the other over the stream at Saddler's Ordinary. Richard Smith, Jr., in 1673, had been appointed by the Town, to be keeper of both the Ferry and the Ordinary in New London Road. Additional grants to individuals had been made of lands *below* Naubuc, in 1672, the lots being of 80 acres each. Thomas Harriss had built a sawmill at Naubuc, in 1667.

The east side settlers had now become, in their own opinion at least, ready and able to set up for themselves, and the initial movement was made in 1689. On the 26th of December in that year, the Naubuc people presented to a town meeting in Wethersfield, a petition, asking "to be discharged from bearing their part of the charge of publike worship here; in order to the setting up of the same amongst themselves." It does not appear that they desired to do more than secure a separate *parish* organization. Wethersfield was favorable, *provided*: "The General Court (on their application to them on said account), shall see cause to grant them on the east side of the Great River, and all the lands belonging to our towne on that side of the river, to be a township; and the inhabitants there shal relinquish all their common rights [*i. e.*, rights in the stated commons], on this west side of the River, as inhabitants here; reserving each man's particular right here, and each person with us reserving his perticular right there, on the said east side. And also, that the said inhabitants shal continue as part of our township, and shal contribute their proportions to all publike charge with us til such time as they have a settled minister among them."

On the 13th February, 1690 (Feb. 23, 1691, N. S.), the thirty-four signers above mentioned, met and agreed that the site of the proposed meeting house should be upon lands donated by John Hubbard and Samuel Smith. At its May session, 1690, the General Court had granted the east side people leave to become "a township of themselves;" but, advised them to "be cautious how they improved it." It, also, required them to continue their support of the minister at Wethersfield, until they "have a good orthodox minister settled amongst them on the east side." The General Court say that the petition of the east side people asked for a separate *township*, and that Wethersfield has consented to it; but this seems to have been otherwise, as the record shows that the petition was for a new *parish* only.

The east side, or Naubuc Farms settlers, continued to consider themselves in the old township after the act, or decree, of the General Court above referred to. On the 23d December, 1691, Wethersfield, in town

meeting voted to lay out "the breadth of our bounds" at Naubuc, a highway for the "country's use." It was not until July, 1692, that the Naubuc people called a minister (Rev. Timo. Stevens) which seems to have been the first exercise of *parochial* power even. In June, 1692, the General Court names the new *town* "Glastenbury." At the October session, 1693, Glastonbury omitted to send in a "list of persons and estates," which the law required all towns to do. It was not until the May session of 1694, that Galstonbury sent a "deputy," or representative (Eleazer Kimberly) to the General Court, and from that date, she may be said to have become a fully established township, being the first one formed by dividing an existing one; and from this date, her history must be kept separate and distinct from that of Wethersfield.<sup>1</sup>

*Beckley's Quarter.*—The next section settled with the *township*, and remote from the original one at Pyquaug, was in "Beckley's Quarter," by Sergt. RICHARD BECKLEY, who came up hither from New Haven about 1660, and was a constable in Wethersfield, in 1662. He probably builded a house a little to the north of the Mattabesett River, where it bends furthest northerly in its course—in a few months after the General Court had granted him a tract of 300 acres in October, 1668.

*Newington.*—Further to the north, in the section known as the "West Division," "West Farms," "Cow Plains" and, finally NEWINGTON, JOSEPH ANDRUS (first of the name in Wethersfield), JOHN SLEAD (Slade?), who was in Wethersfield as early as 1672, and SAMUEL HUNN (probably a son of Nathaniel, of Wethersfield), settled between 1682 and 1684. For the histories of both *Beckley-Quarter* and *Newington*, see Chapter XIX, NEWINGTON.

*Rocky Hill.*—(*Stepney Parish.*)—Another section, some four miles distant from Wethersfield settlement, was in its early stages of existence, before that at the West Farms; and, in point of time, it was next in order after the Naubuc Farms; though it would seem to have been more accessible. We refer to what has been, from the earliest times, known as ROCKY HILL, and for a period, constituted *Stepney Parish* in Wethersfield.

It is to be noted, that the southern or remotest part of the centre of the section was *first* settled. It is true that Philip Goffe's house,

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<sup>1</sup> On the 27th Jany., 1714, Glastonbury declared by vote in Town Meeting, that "this Town first became a body politic when the Meeting House (in which the said inhabitants of the said Town, for public worship of God, do meet) was erected and built." As that edifice was built in October, 1693, it need not longer be doubted that Glastonbury's existence as a township dates from Oct., 1693; at least not earlier.



which is mentioned as early as 1655, was in the extreme northern part, on land originally laid out to Rev. Mr. Denton, just below "Goffe's Bridge," but Goffe should be classed with the settlers of Pyquaug, rather than with those of Rocky Hill, since he was nearer the former than to the latter settlement, both as to date and distance. The reason of this growth of the more *distant* point from the parent stock, before the *intervening* point may, perhaps, be found in the policy, adopted by the town, almost from the start, of beginning next the boundary lines of the adjoining towns, on each side, and laying out the lots in a tier to be parallel with such line. In the case of Rocky Hill, the fact of an advantageous landing place being found under the southerly end of the hill, which gives the place its name, served to modify somewhat the rule of occupation which would naturally follow the order of allotments; just the same as local causes had operated the same way in other directions.

Perhaps, the earliest *special* grant of land in Rocky Hill<sup>1</sup> was a donation by the town to SAMUEL BOARDMAN, Sr., of thirty acres on the south side of Rocky Hill, betwixt the Hill and a water course and "so to run to the Great River. The date of this grant was 1649. When Thos. Williams (son of Matthew) bought this land of Boardman in 1668, it was described as abutting "against a highway on the top of the bank by the Great River east, and lands not divided west, the sides against common lands north, and part against the said Williams, his land, and the common south." The piece next south, and containing 12 acres, which had been granted to Williams by the town, in 1661, was described in 1668, as bounded E. by the river, W. by lands not laid out, and S. by Hog Brook. This latter water course, we suppose to be the small brooklet that empties into the river directly below the present steamboat dock and which no longer exists, except as a nearly dry ravine without distinctive name. These two tracts will be recognized as embracing most of the area now covered by the dwellings and "stores" about the Rocky Hill landing-place and railroad depot of to-day.

Williams received from the town in 1672, a further grant of ten acres. This was taken out of the "undivided" land next west of the

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<sup>1</sup> ROCKY HILL.—This name first appears in a town vote in December, 1649. On the 28th of that month, as the record says: "Goodman Borman [Sam. Boardman], p'pounded for the end of Rocky Hill, about half a hu'derd ac.; and that the townsmen [i. e. Selectmen] should see it." On the 2nd of the next month the town gave Mr. Boardman 20 ac. of land, "on the South east sid of Rockie Hill," a little below the present Landing-Place; and this undoubtedly the first land taken up by a white settler in that part of the township.

last described piece and is stated to be "bound S. by Hog Brook." How soon Williams built on any of these tracts does not appear of record. AMOS and JOHN WILLIAMS, who, as we suppose, were his younger brothers, also had large tracts on the Middletown Road, a little later. Amos bought sixteen acres of Lieut. Thos. Hollister, in 1672, and twenty-five acres of John Welles in 1681, both on the west side of the road; and was, probably, living in Rocky Hill, at the date of the last purchase. John's house on the east side of the "Way to Middletown, or Bulkely's Mill," is incidentally mentioned in 1684. SAMUEL WILLIAMS, a still younger brother of Thomas, had a large tract of land on the north corner of the road that runs west of the present postoffice. William Morris sold to Samuel Boardman, Jr., in April, 1683, his house, with a part (six acres) of his land on the west side of Middletown road, near to, if not adjoining Middletown line. EZEKIEL BUCK (son of Emanuel, of Wethersfield) was given a tract of twelve acres by his father, in 1679, or earlier. It was adjacent to another piece of four acres, granted by the town in 1676, and was on the east side of Middletown road. On the west side of the same road, between John Slead's land and a highway north. Buck had  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres from the town, in October, 1676. This, with a *house* upon it, he sold, in 1684, to Sam. Boardman, Jr., and at this time it is probable that Buck removed to his lot by the saw mill at West Farms, afterwards called Newington; he being also a part owner of the mill. We suppose this to be the same Ezekiel Buck, who, in 1720, removed from Wethersfield to Bantam (Litchfield) and became one of the original settlers of that township. His neighbor at Newington, Capt. Jacob Griswold, is believed to have been the *first* settler of Litchfield. JOSEPH EDWARDS, son of John Edwards, Sr., had twenty acres granted him by the town, and laid out in 1673, on the west side of Middletown road, between Emanuel Buck on the north and Samuel Boardman, Jr., south. He probably built a house on it within two or three years thereafter. Edwards died in or prior to 1682. SAMUEL BOARDMAN, Jr., is believed to have built himself a house upon a tract of ten acres on the west side of Middletown road, between Joseph Edwards' lot north, and John Welles' south, soon after the town had granted him the land in 1672. In 1674, he received sixteen acres more, next north of Amos Williams' lot, by distribution from his deceased father's estate. JOHN and SAMUEL TAYLOR, sons of William of Wethersfield, had lots adjoining each other on the east side of Middletown road, west of Thomas Williams' land. John bought his tract (six acres) of Andrew Pinsion (Pyncheon), in January, 1676-7. As Pyncheon's had been

granted by the town, in 1673, on condition that he should *build* thereon within seven years, and as he retained six acres for himself, it is probable that both he and John Taylor had houses on their Rocky Hill lands, prior to 1680. SAMUEL COLE, in March, 1682, bought from the estate of Joseph Edwards, deceased, a lot on the east side of Middletown road, next south of Thomas Williams' and on it built a house soon thereafter. JONATHAN DEMING, "blacksmith," bought fifteen acres, in 1672, from Daniel Rose, on the west side Middletown road, between Amos Williams on the north and a highway south. In 1682, he bought from Ezekiel Buck, eight acres on the south side of the highway, to the north of land of Joseph Edwards, deceased; and we apprehend that it was on the first of these two tracts that he was living when, in 1704, the town voted to "fortify" his house against attack then supposed to be imminent. The house of James Warner is now upon this tract. "Mr." JOSEPH BUTLER had six acres granted him in 1693-4, next to Middletown line, on the east side the Middletown road, to *build a house* on. He built one, which his son Charles inherited. JOSEPH SMITH (son of Samuel "the fellmonger") was granted land in 1667, next east of Samuel Taylor's land, on the east side of Middletown road, Thomas Williams' land being next south. He died in 1674, or earlier, at Rocky Hill, as we suppose; and, perhaps, was the earliest settler there, and the first to die in that settlement,. JOSEPH GRIMES, a weaver, bought a piece of one and one-half acres from Jacob Goffe, carpenter, on the west side of Middletown road, in January, 1689-90, and must have built upon it soon after.

Taking the plainest indications we can get, we find that a little community existed at Rocky Hill as early as 1680, or thereabouts; that the settlers were sons of parents living in Wethersfield village; that they occupied lands between the present river-landing on the east, Dividend on the south, the Wilderness (distant a mile, or a mile and a half from the river) west, and the northern slope of the hill on the north; and that the number of settlers in 1680, couldn't have exceeded half a dozen. To recapitulate, we should say, that, by 1684, there were living, or had lived, at Rocky Hill, the following settlers:

Samuel Boardman, Jr.	Jacob Goffe, his son.	Amos Williams.
Ezekiel Buck.	William Morris.	John Williams.
Samuel Cole.	Andrew Pyncheon.	Thomas Williams.
Jonathan Deming.	Joseph Smith.	Job Whitcomb.
Joseph Edwards.	John Taylor.	
Philip Goffe.	Samuel Tavlör.	

JOSEPH BUTLER and JOSEPH GRIMES soon followed, and, it is possible, that JOHN SLEAD settled on his land at Rocky Hill, before he went to Newington (or "West Farms") which we suppose to have been in 1684.

In 1672, the town had reserved a tract of five acres at the foot of Rocky Hill, for a landing place and ship yard. Rev. Gershom Bulkeley had erected his "corne mill" in 1676, on a large tract given him by the town in 1668, at Dividend; and a highway had been laid out "from Widow Goffe's" to this mill in 1677; one from Wethersfield to Rocky Hill landing, along the east side of the hill having been laid out in 1649. So that the incipient colony at Rocky Hill was, at this time, in a promising condition. For further history of this old Wethersfield Parish, see our Chapter XIX, on Stepney and Rocky Hill.

THE VILLAGE OF WETHERSFIELD.—Although not in strict chronological order, yet we may venture to include this among the *inter-territorial* developments of the old township. It may not be known to all of our readers that the Township of Wethersfield enjoys the distinction of being the only one in the State, with one exception, which has an incorporated *village* within its borders. That exception is Litchfield.

In May, 1822, the Legislature enacted that the electors living within the following limits, should be a body politic, and a corporation, having certain powers as to fire ordinances and fire companies, a work-house, sale of fuel, etc.—"Beginning at a point on the W. bank of Conn. River; thence due W. to a point in the centre of South Lane 10 rods N. of Elisha Williams' house; thence, along the centre of said Lane N. to the centre of street from Appleton Robbins' house to Harris' Hill; thence along centre of same street to the centre of the street leading N. by the house of Selah Barrett; thence along centre of said street N. to the Great Road leading from Wethersfield Village to the Htfd. & New Haven turnpike; thence a right line N. to a point in Jordan's Lane, 30 rods W. from Sandy Lane; thence due N. to North bounds of Wethersfield; thence along same E. to Conn. River; thence along W. bank of said River to the place of beginning."

It was provided that the corporate name should be "The Village of Wethersfield." The corporate existence of this village is maintained by virtue of a statute contained in the Revision of 1875, of the General Statutes; but the writer is not aware that it exercises any of the powers thus conferred upon it.



## CHAPTER V.

### *Military Organization—Wethersfield's Share in the Earlier Indian Wars—1637—1676—The Andros Usurpation.*

[BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ.]

IN A PREVIOUS PLACE (Chapter IV, p. 170), we have spoken of the *Constable* and stated the nature of his duties as a civil official. Important as these were, however, they were not superior in value to his military functions. For "The first constables appointed for the river towns were of a decidedly *military* character. They rather resembled their English prototype than the officer of later colonial days.<sup>1</sup> The first independent organization of the towns was for defense. The earliest act of the provisional government was directed against a laxity of military discipline, and the next forbade sale of arms, powder or shot to the Indians; following which is the appointment of constables, practically as military officers. A further extension of the military organization is seen in "the Watch," undoubtedly a kind of constabulary patrol to guard against Indian attacks. The constable was next required to view the ammunition, which every inhabitant was ordered to have in readiness; and, finally, before half a year had passed, each town was put into working military form, by the institution of monthly *trainings under the constable*, with more frequent meetings for the 'unskillful.' At this time, the constable was required to perform his time-honored duty of viewing the arms to see 'whether they be serviceable or noe,' which duty was, later, given to the clerk of the train band. One is not surprised that the colonists were in readiness the next year to declare an offensive war against the Pequots. After the war was over, the inhabitants were ordered to bring to the constable 'any armor, gnes, swords, belts, Bandilers, kittles, pottes, tooles, or anything else that belongs to the commonwealth;' " and this officer was to return them to the next Court.—Andrews' *The River Towns in Conn.*, p. 110-11.

DANIEL FINCH was Wethersfield's first constable, by appointment of the General Court, in 1636.

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<sup>1</sup> For the Military character of the Constable, see Adams' *Norman Constables in America*. *Johns Hopkins Univ. Studies*, Vol. I., pp. 8 ff.

*The "Watch and Ward,"* ordered by the Court, in June, 1636, to be maintained in every town, was under the constable's charge. The same order was amended in 1649. In the Revision of 1715, the constables were empowered "in his Majestie's name" to "duely and faithfully attend their watch and ward, by walking and standing in such places where they may best discover danger, by the approach of an enemy, or by fire, or otherwise; which, if they discover, they are to give notice thereof, by *firing their guns*, and crying Fire! Fire! or Arm! Arm!" They were also authorized to arrest the suspected person and produce him before an Assistant or Justice of the Peace, for examination.

In April, 1652, the townsmen employed HUGH WELLES to *beat the drum*, for the year then ensuing, "every night and morneing, for the setting of the Watch and the breaking off the Watch in the morneing; and for to beate it every Lord's day, as the custom is." The duties of the watchmen evidently were analogous to those of the present day policeman.

*The Guard.*—Independently of the watch and ward, or regular patrol, there seems to have been a special armed force, maintained by the town, whose duty was to attend the meetings at the meeting house on Sundays and lecture days, when the greater part of the population were engaged in their devotions. In December, 1658, it was voted that the pay of the "gard in Weathersfield" should be 12 pence per man per annum; but, in March, 1661, it was made 5 shillings. Probably, it was a service to which ordinarily no pay was attached; and all able bodied citizens were required to serve in it by turns. By town vote, the "Gard" was required to appear "in armes complete every Lord's day and Lecter day," or forfeit of 12 pence per man.

The General Court, in 1642, had passed an order that each of the River Towns should have a completely armed guard of forty men, to attend meetings, as above stated; and some of these Wethersfield votes may have applied to the guard formed pursuant to that order. By the Code of 1650, the stated number of the meeting house guard was fixed at twenty men.

*The Train Band.*—The earliest developments of the regular military organizations in the three river towns, seems to have been in connection with and a consequence of the Indian outbreaks of 1637—and even that was but temporary in its character—a levy made upon the three towns by the General Court, to meet an emergency. For many years there was no regular organization of militia, as we now understand such a term. In the Code of 1650, it was provided that "all persons"

more than sixteen years of age (magistrates and church officers only excepted) should "beare armes." Those enrolled in any town formed the "Train Band," the number constituting a maximum or minimum not being fixed by law. The officers were nominated by the "souldgers," and confirmed by the Particular (not the General) Court. Soldiers were required to be armed with "a good muskitt, or other gunn"; a "sword, rest and bandaleers" (shoulder belt); "match and bullitts." By the same Code, Wethersfield was required to keep on hand one barrel of powder, 300 pounds of lead, 80 fathoms of match; "and eight Cotton Coates, or Corseletts, with serviceable Pikes to either of them."

In February, 1660-1, the town voted to provide a barrel of gunpowder "for the use of the town, for their defense in case of danger." In October, 1669, a similar vote was passed. In August, 1694, it was voted that a barrel of the town's gunpowder be opened and sold for private use; the money received therefor (three shillings per pound) to be reserved, to keep the stock replenished.

In the Revision of the laws of 1673, it was provided that all *male* persons between 16 and 60 years of age (excepting magistrates, church officers, doctors, schoolmasters, millers, herdsman and mariners) should bear arms. The arms were: a musket, carbine or other gun, "not less than Bastard musquet or Coliver Boare."

It was also provided that all the soldiery in any county constituted a regiment. The commanding officer of a regiment was a "Sergeant Major." Prior to this time the highest military title in the colony was that of major. In this same revision, it was provided that a company of Foot might be of 64 men; in which case the officers were to be: a captain, a lieutenant, an ensign and four sergeants. Where the organization contained but 32 men, the officers were: a lieutenant, an ensign and two sergeants. Where there were but 24 men, the officers were two sergeants. All these organizations were "train bands;" but, unless they had 64 men, they were not companies. What we call infantry was known as the "Foot;" what we call cavalry, were known as the "Troop." The officers of a company of "troop" (of which one was allowed to each regiment) were: a captain, a cornet, a lieutenant, an ensign and corporals; probably four of the latter. All commissions issued from the General Court.

In the Revision of 1715, it was provided, among other things, that each "listed souldier, and *other householder*," except "troopers," should keep "a well fixed firelock musket," having a barrel of not less than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet length; a "collar with 12 bandileers," or "a cartouch box;" a pound of powder; 4 pounds of bullets; 12 flints; a sword or

"cutlash;" and a worm, and priming wire. Delinquent soldiers might be punished by "laying neck and heels," or "riding the wooden horse."

A great move was made, in the direction of military organization, in 1739; when the General Assembly formed the whole colony into thirteen departments, within each of which one regiment was to be maintained. These departments were quite unequal in extent; the first, for instance, included Hartford (both sides the river), Windsor (both sides the river), Simsbury, Bolton, Tolland, Harwinton, Torrington, New Hartford, Barkhamstead, Hartland, Colebrook, Winchester, and the First Society in Farmington. While the sixth contained only Wethersfield, Middletown (on both sides the river), Glastonbury and the Parish of Kensington. And the number of companies to the regiment was not the same; some, in a few years, having 18 or 20. There were four in Wethersfield, exclusive of that part in Kensington Parish. The regimental officers were: a colonel, a lieutenant colonel and a major. A full company, whether of "foot soldiers" or "troopers," was 64 men, with the officers in addition; but "train bands" of 32 men each, were authorized. A company of troop was allowed to each regiment. Company officers were the same as before.

JAMES BOOSEY, before referred to as "Armorer" in 1639, was, in 1645, clerk of the Wethersfield "train band," the earliest mention of that body in the town. He was succeeded the next year, as clerk by WILLIAM SMITH; and he, in 1649, by Corporal THOMAS HURLBURT, who had served with credit at Saybrook Fort. RICHARD TREAT, in 1652, was ensign of the train band, an office apparently equivalent to that of lieutenant of our day. And, in 1657, JOHN HOLLISTER was a lieutenant—the first mention of that title in Wethersfield after Robert Seeley. The General Court, in 1657, appointed four Johns as sergeants for the Wethersfield company, viz.: JOHN BETTS, JOHN DICKINSON, JOHN KILBOURN and JOHN NOTT. In 1658, SAMUEL (son of Gov. Thomas) WELLES an ensign; a lieutenant in 1665, and a captain in 1670—the first, so far as it appears, of the train band. His lieutenant was JOHN CHESTER, and WILLIAM GOODRICH his ensign, the latter elected in 1666. HUGH WELLS was a sergeant from 1670; and probably JOHN STEDMAN, who came to Wethersfield from Hartford in 1670, was a sergeant as early as 1666.

*Wethersfield's Share in the Earlier Indian Wars, from 1637 to 1676.*—The Pequot campaigns were followed by many years of peace; but, in 1653, Wethersfield furnished 8 of the 65 men raised "to make war against the Dutch"—which war came to nothing; and, in 1654, she sent six with the expedition against Ninigret, the Niantic Chief.



In March, 1658, a company of cavalry ("troopers," or "dragoons;" as they were styled) was raised from the Three River Towns, under the command of Capt. John Mason—of which the following members were residents of Wethersfield.

Mr. John Chester.	John Palmer.	John Belden.
Anthony Wright.	John Latimer.	Cap't Rich'd Treat.

In August, 1673, a battalion of dragoons, numbering 163, was raised in Hartford County, under command of Capt. Benjamin Newbury of Windsor—of which Wethersfield's proportion was 30 men.

A little later, the Indians throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island became so active and threatening under the machinations of the chief Metacomet, or "King Philip" as he was called, that all New England was aflame with apprehension. The Indians had by this time learned the use of fire arms and other weapons of the whites, some had become tolerably skilled in husbandry, blacksmithing, carpentry, etc., and consequently had become a more dangerous foe than before. Every plantation, therefore, felt the necessity of making immediate preparations for its own defense, against possible attack. In Wethersfield, 1674-5, the town formally voted that a sufficient palisade should be built "around the town," and Mr. SAMUEL TALCOTT (son of the "Worshipful" John); Lieut. JOHN CHESTER (eldest son of Leonard, "Armiger"); Ensign WILLIAM GOODRICH (the settler); Mr. JAMES TREAT (son of Mr. Richard, the settler, and brother of Major Robert); ELEAZER KIMBERLY (the colonial secretary) "with the sergeant of the train band, were directed to see the work done. They were also directed to cause the goods and grain of inhabitants dwelling outside of the Palizado, to be brought within it; and they were authorized to impress men and teams into the service for the doing of it. The records are silent as regards the actual prosecution and completion of the work.

In 1675, the town voted a general authority to inhabitants to "joyne in companies" for the purpose of fortifying such houses as they should determine upon "provided, that at least, six men joyne together for the defense of one fortified house." Under this vote—which was in accordance with the Colonial enactments, Tradition says that houses were fortified (*i. e.*, the walls, doors and windows strengthened and secured) in different parts of the village. Of these defensive measures, we speak more at length under the head of *Fortifications*.

On the *east* side of the river, matters were more serious. As early as July 1st, 1675, the Standing Council of the colony, at its first

meeting, thought it necessary to raise a body of dragoons to operate in the direction of New London and Stonington. For this purpose, Wethersfield was to contribute 8 dragoons and 2 troopers; Corp'l SAM. MARTIN of Wethersfield to be one of them. The whole body was to consist of 30 dragoons and 10 troopers. On the 6th of August, 20 dragoons, to form a part of an additional detachment of 100—were ordered to be raised from Wethersfield. On the 1st of Sept., 1675, Maj. Robert Treat was directed to detail 30 dragoons to scour the country from Hoccanum to Scantic; and the same number from Hartford down to Wethersfield; the occasion being that John Colt had been shot by an Indian (in Hartford Meadow?) and a body of Indians discovered skulking in the night near the Hartford North Meadow. Men were also detailed to "clear the road" between Wethersfield and Middletown. Others were sent to Hadley, where was quite a settlement of Wethersfield men. Sept. 28th, Hartford and Wethersfield were each required to furnish — bushels of wheat for the commissary department, and Windsor 50 and Farmington 30 bushels. Oct. 5th, inhabitants on the E. side of the river, in Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield were ordered to gather and secure their Indian corn, "the enemy being so near as Springfield." Mr. JOHN HOLLISTER (son of Lieut. John, deceased) was then living at Nayaug (now South Glastonbury) on the farm formerly of his father. On the 11th October, the Council authorized him to "hire two or three men to *fortify his house*, and secure his corn, on the E. side of Great River." The Wongum Indians, then living in that vicinity, were friendly to Mr. Hollister; and he and they raised their corn with each other's assistance; and, it is said, that these Indians were relied upon by Mr. Hollister to assist him in case of a hostile invasion by other savages. Nov. 1st, 1675, the Wongum (remnants of the Wethersfield tribe), and those of Nayaug, were authorized to build a fort, and occupy it jointly, under Owaneco; either at Wonggum or at Nayaug, as they should see fit. Nov. 25th, 110 men were ordered to be raised for war purposes, under command of Maj. Treat; of these, Hartford was to raise 30, Windsor 28, Wethersfield 23, Farmington 15, Middletown 14, and a horse was to be provided for every third man. East side inhabitants, by an order of Dec. 28th, were to withdraw into their garrisons.

Meanwhile, the great "Fort Fight," of Dec. 19, 1675, with the Narragansetts at South Kingston, R. I., had occurred. The English forces were about 1,000 strong, under command of Maj. Josiah Winslow of the Massachusetts contingent. Major Robert Treat (afterwards Governor), of Milford, son of Richard Treat of Wethersfield, commanded

the Connecticut troops, and was second in command of the forces of the united colonies. To this force, Wethersfield contributed 23 men and, in the person of Rev. GERSHOM BULKLEY, the chaplain and surgeon of the Connecticut division. In this memorable battle, 80 of the English were killed and 150 wounded—the Connecticut forces alone losing five captains. While we know not *all* the Wethersfield men who were in this battle, we know of some who were. Lieut. JOHN STEADMAN, in command of the Hartford County dragoons, was killed. He lived in what is now Jordan Lane. Corporal SAMUEL MARTIN, of the dragoons, earned by that day's work, a lieutenantcy and a bounty of 200 acres of land. Capt. SAMUEL WELLES, captain of the Wethersfield train band, was there—as is evident from the written instructions to him, from the Council of War, at Hartford. It is probable, also, that his lieutenant JOHN CHESTER, was there; but it is not probable that Ens. William Goodrich, a hero of the Pequot War of 1637, was in the fight, as he was an *old* man and died the following year; but his son WILLIAM GOODRICH, may have been. Among the sergeants of the train bands, it is nearly certain that HUGH WELLS and JOHN WYATT were in the engagement; the latter was promoted to ensign. THOMAS HOLISTER, a noted Indian fighter and son of Lieut. John, in all probability, was present and earned the lieutenantcy to which he was promoted. He resided on the west side of Broad Street, but removed shortly after to the east side of the river, Corporal JOHN EDWARDS, son of John the settler, died Dec. 19, 1675, from a wound received in this action.<sup>1</sup> Rev. GERSHOM BULKELEY, surgeon and chaplain, was exhausted with the care of the wounded. Lieut. Samuel Talcott (brother of Maj. John), we may be sure would have been there, had he not been occupied as a member of the Council of War. Private JONATHAN (son of William) COLEFAX was wounded. We regret that we have not sufficient data to prove the share in this hotly contested fight, by other Wethersfield men.

There were other campaigns in which Wethersfield men took part—for the victory gained at the Narragansett Fort did not, at once, bring peace—since Philip was still at large and unsubdued. Jan. 5, 1675-6, Wethersfield sent 10 men out of the 56 levied upon the county, to Gen. Winslow's command in R. I., for service against the remnant of Philip's warriors. Mr. Joseph Fitch had been appointed to the command of 60 dragoons formerly commanded by Lieut. John Steadman, of Wethersfield, killed in the Fort Fight, and 19 Dec., 1675, Mr. SAMUEL

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<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Land Rec.*, III., p. 191.

MARTIN, Sr., was appointed Lieut. in Capt. Watt's company. In February, 1675-6, 80 men from Hartford County, 16 of whom were from Wethersfield, were sent to the Narragansett County, where Maj. John Talcott was operating, and it was on the 18th of this month that WILLIAM HILLS, of Hartford, was shot and seriously wounded by Indians in Hoccannum Meadows. On the 21st, a "well fortified garrison" was ordered to be established at Naubuc (now Glastonbury), and on the 24th, the Council advised the Wongum Indians to accept of Mr. John Hollister's tender, and to "come and built a fort at Nayage." Dr. Chapin says that this fort stood on the bank of the river at Red Hill, nearly west of the place occupied (1853) by Col. Elijah Miller; but he is in error in supposing the "Mr." John Hollister to be the *Lieut.* John Hollister, Lieut. THOMAS HOLLISTER, brother of John, was indeed active in the campaign of 1675-7, but he lived on the *west* side of the river, certainly down to several years after this date. Besides, John is the one expressly mentioned in all the orders relative to the Fort and fortified houses at Nayaug. Indians, at this time were "skulking" in the highway between Hartford and Wethersfield and had waylaid and killed John Kirby, Jr., in the road between Wethersfield and Middletown.

In March, 1676, several houses in Wethersfield were fortified: Tunxis (Farmington) Indians were suspected of being hostile and Wethersfield people thought themselves in great danger from the attack of the Red men.

It would require more space than is available, to narrate further Wethersfield's part in these stirring and troublous years of the Philip War. We will only add that it is probable that Lieut. (afterwards Capt.) JOHN CHESTER, Lieut. JAMES TREAT, Lieut. THOMAS HOLLISTER, Lieut. JOHN STEDMAN,<sup>1</sup> Lieut. SAM'L MARTIN, Sr., Lieut. SAM'L TALCOTT, Serg. JOHN KILBOURN, Ens. JOHN WYATT, Ens. HUGH WELLS, and others that might be mentioned—served with great credit to the Town. Talcott and Chester were more especially valuable in the Council and the General Court. JOSEPH ANDREWS, son of John, and born 1657, was engaged in this war, and after it, removed to Newington

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<sup>1</sup> This was probably Lieut. John, son of Lieut. John Steadman, who was killed in the "Great Fort Fight" of Dec., 1675. Valentine's *Manual of the Common Council of New York City*, for 1861, contains a *fac simile* of a letter addressed to this (younger) Lieut. John (then Ensign) "in the Colony of Connecticut," by the celebrated Jacob Leisler, dated at Fort William, (New York City) 21 July, 1690, in reference to a commission promised to Steadman (probably in the New York forces) but which from political reasons Leisler had been disappointed in confirming to him.



parish, Wethersfield, where he died, 1706.<sup>1</sup> The Wethersfield contingent did not arrive in time to take part in the "Falls [Turner's] Fight," on the 19th of that month, but remained as long as their assistance was needed, in the subsequent minor engagements. On the 20th, out of 80 men sent to Capt. Newberry's command, at Northampton, 20 were from Wethersfield. About the first of June, Major Talcott's forces marched from Norwich, *via* Wabanguasset [Woodstock ?], to Quabaug and Hadley, where they joined the English there. On the 22nd the Council of War ordered the release of Turramuggus, successor to Sowheag, who, it appears, had been unjustly held, as unfriendly. In the meantime there was considerable activity at the seat of war in Massachusetts.

In June, 1676, the "Hartford County Company," which seems to have been an independent battalion, was "divided," by order of the Council. The south section of it was put under command of Capt. John Stanley, of Hartford; THOMAS HOLLISTER, of Wethersfield, was made the Lieutenant, and JOHN WYATT, of the same place, Ensign. The latter was a son of John, of Farmington. In August, Lieutenant Hollister, with ten men, was sent to Pacomtock (Deerfield), to search for arms, said by the prisoner, Menowniett, to have been concealed there.

Philip was killed on the 12th of August; and his demise was the beginning of a long period of comparative quiet. But there was still occasion for watchfulness and anxiety on the part of the settlers. On the 24th of November, Lieutenant Hollister was authorized to let ten of the Indians he had brought in from "the Swamp," return to Moheag, near the present Montville; the rest were sold, as slaves, by order of Major Talcott.

Perhaps the last partial re-kindling of the fires of the Philip War, whereof Connecticut aided the extinguishment—was in Hatfield and Deerfield, Mass. In consequence of the massacre of September 19th, 1677, at Hatfield, help was urgently called for from that direction. Accordingly, fifty men were at once raised in Hartford County, and sent thither. Of this levy, Wethersfield's quota was fourteen men; and Ensign JOHN WYATT accompanied them.

It is proper, in connection with our account of Wethersfield's share in the memorable Philip's War, to record the part taken therein by sons of Wethersfield who had, in 1659, and subsequently, removed to Had-

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<sup>1</sup> Julius Gay's *Farmington Soldiers in the Colonial Wars*, a Historical Address, Sept. 1897, p. 10.

ley, Hatfield, and vicinity. Hadley was the principal headquarters of the troops from Connecticut, under the command of Major Treat, Major Talcott, Captain Newberry and others; and it was the only settlement, of the River towns of Massachusetts, which was not destroyed, or nearly destroyed, by the savages; most of whom were of the Nipmuck tribe. Brookfield, Northfield and Deerfield, all small settlements, lost (as estimated by Sylvester Judd, the historian of Hadley), 45 dwelling houses; Springfield, 33; Northampton, 10; and Hatfield, 16. In the defense of these settlements, and in the many contests with the Indians, in 1676 and 1677, some 225 of the English were slain; and no inconsiderable proportion of these were from Connecticut, or sons of Connecticut.

The minister at Hadley, the Rev. JOHN RUSSELL, had been the Wethersfield minister; and when the Rev. Gershom Bulkeley, as Surgeon of the Connecticut forces, reached Hadley, he met, in the person of Mr. Russell, one who had been his predecessor in the Wethersfield pulpit. Mr. Russell had conducted most of the military correspondence of the Colonial (American) officers. According to some historians, he had also had in charge the preservation and keeping of the Regicides, Goffe and Whalley, who were then in concealment in Hadley. Others, Mr. Judd among the number, say that these fugitives were kept at the houses of Peter Tilton and Lieutenant Samuel Smith. The latter gentleman, now aged, had been one of the original settlers of Wethersfield, and many years a most influential civil officer there. His son, Lieutenant PHILIP SMITH, was now living in Hadley; and he rendered great service in the struggles with the Indians. RICHARD MONTAGUE, from Wethersfield—at Hadley, established a bolting-mill; and he baked the biscuit for the soldiers of the campaign. NATHANIEL DICKINSON, the old town clerk of Wethersfield, was, with most of his sons, now living in Hadley; where he died, in June, 1676. Of his sons, born and brought up in Wethersfield, OBADIAH had his house burned by the savages, and he, and a child of his, were carried captives to Canada. Returning thence, the next year, he soon after removed to his old home in Wethersfield. JOSEPH was killed in the fight at Squakheag (Northfield), Septemeber 5th, 1675. He was then living at Northfield. NEHEMIAH was in the "Falls" (Turner's) fight, May 19th, 1676. JOHN was one of the Sergeants at the Falls fight. AZARIAH, the youngest son, was killed in a fight in a swamp, near Hadley, August 25th, 1675. The people of Wethersfield should remember, with pride, the part taken in the war of 1675-7 by this family; many of whose descendants are in that township, and Rocky Hill, at this day. Some,

in this and other states of the Union, have been distinguished far beyond merely local bounds.

Sergeant ISAAC GRAVES, and his brother JOHN, both of whom were killed in the fight at Hatfield, September 19th, 1677, though then living at Hatfield, had been residents of Wethersfield. Isaac was a carpenter. John was a citizen of some importance, living on the east side of Broad Street. They were sons of Thomas, of Hartford. JONATHAN WELLES, and his brother, THOMAS, Jr., of Deerfield and Hadley, respectively—went to Hadley, from Wethersfield, with their father, Thomas Welles, 2nd. Both were in the Falls fight, and Thomas was wounded. Jonathan survived the fight more than 60 years. Seventeen years later, in 1693, two daughters of Thomas were killed by the Indians; his wife, and a third daughter, were scalped and left for dead. NOAH COLEMAN, also in the Falls fight, was one of those who had emigrated from Wethersfield to Hadley. He was the son of Thomas Coleman. JOHN SMITH, of Hadley, born and reared in Wethersfield, was a son of Lieutenant Samuel. He was in the Falls fight, and survived it only to be slain eleven days later, in Hatfield meadow. PETER MONTAGUE, who, with his father, Richard, had removed from Wethersfield to Hadley, was in the Falls fight. SAMUEL BELDEN, son of Richard, of Wethersfield, was living in Hatfield, August 19th, 1677; and in the attack of that date his wife was killed. JOHN COLEMAN, brother of Noah, above mentioned, lost his wife and a babe, at the same time. And so, the disasters at these River settlements of Massachusetts, were largely a source of bereavement to the older one at Wethersfield.

*Fortifications—The Fort—Palizade—Fortified Houses.*—The *Wethersfield Records*, in 1640, call the street on which the State Prison now stands, *Fort Street*, a name which it retained for many years thereafter. Whether this was a *fort*, in the modern acceptation of the term; or merely a space containing the houses of some families, and encircled by palisades (*i. e.*, high wooden palings, with a deep ditch, or fosse, on the outer side) such as the Windsor settlers had about the time of the Pequot War (see Stiles' *History of Ancient Windsor, Conn.*, I, 133) it is now impossible to determine. But it is natural to suppose that in those troublous times, Wethersfield was as much in need of such a fortification as Windsor was—more especially as the former town had already experienced the terrors of an Indian attack. But, as to the *date*, or *material* of its construction, or its *size* and *exact location*, we have no information. Mr. Frederick Butler, father of the late Chief Judge Butler, used to say that the Fort stood on land then (about 50 years ago),

forming part of his garden, now in the possession of his heirs. The first white occupant of this lot was Thomas Standish. Mr. Butler used to say that some of the foundation stones of the work still remained. But this is doubtful; since the earliest usage was to construct mere earthworks, or else to set a fencing or "paling" of heavy timbers.

What is certain is that the *Fort*, or *Palizado*, whichever it may have been, *was in this vicinity*; and it would seem probable, that the work was to the north of this street, where it would be much nearer to the river (as it then ran), than on the Standish lot; at which point the river, at that time, was at least a mile further east than it now is. Besides, were he Fort at the latter place there would have been less propriety in naming the street Fort Street.

As we have previously narrated, in March, 1675, when the King Philip War was imminent, the town, anticipating a possible invasion—voted that "the towne be forthwith fortified round with a sufficient pallisadoe, and proportioned according to men's estates that should be comprised within the fortification. And in case any of those that shall not be so comprised, living in the skirts of the townships, will join in the fortification, bringing in their goods and corn, if their houses shall be burnt by the enemy, and the towne preferred, the towne granted to repair their losses therein. And Mr. [Samuel] Talcott, Lieut. [John] Chester, Ensign [William] Goodrich, with the sergeants of the train-band, and Mr. James Treat and Eleazer Kimberly—were chosen a committee, and empowered by the towne, they, or the major part of them, to determine in what place and manner the said fortification shall be sett up," etc. This was before any order or recommendation had issued from the General Court on the subject.

In the following October the General Court ordered that each plantation, "make such suitable places of defence as they are capable of, and appoynt such places for their women and children, and others that are not able to help themselves, to repayre unto in case of assault." Accordingly, Wethersfield, on the 9th of March, 1676, in town meeting, decided: "Forthwith to fortifie some houses, for the necessary defence of women and children," and that "the severall inhabitants should haue free liberty to choose out their houses for that purpose, and to joyne in companies for the fortifeing and defence of such houses, as they shall judge most convenient for their safety; allways *provided*, that at the least six men joyne together for the defence of one fortified house." What houses, if any, were transformed to temporary fortresses under this vote, does not appear.



On October 11th, 1675, the Governor and Council of War, at Hartford, gave Mr. JOHN HOLLISTER (son of Lieut. John, the Settler), who was then living at Nayaug, now South Glastonbury—permission “to hire two or three men, to fortify his house, and secure his corn, on the east side of the Great River.”

On the 9th of November, 1675, the said Council authorized Owaneco, and the Wongum and Nayaug Indians (the former being mostly in what is now Chatham)—“to make a fort at Wonggum or Nayag, as they shall agree”; they to be under the government of said Owaneco, who was a son of Uncas.

In the latter part of the year 1703, there was trouble with the Indians of central and eastern Massachusetts, and danger that they might secure the alliance of Connecticut tribes. The General Court, at the March session, 1704, enacted that every town in the Colony should call a meeting, “with as convenient speed as may be to consider what houses shall be fortified.” Wethersfield responded by calling a meeting June 30th, 1704, at which it was voted that, “We fortifie six houses, viz: Capt. Rob<sup>t</sup> Wells’, Mr. Stephen Mix’, David Wright’s, Serg<sup>t</sup> [John] Latimer, Benj. Crane’s heirs & Jonathan Deming’s, Blacksmith. The quarters, or squadrons devided as by the commission officers were devided before;<sup>1</sup> all except Jacob Griswold ot Capt. Wells, garrison. And the persons to order and sett out the work & shares to the perticular persons: for *Cap<sup>t</sup> Wells’ fort*—Cap<sup>t</sup> Wells, Serg<sup>t</sup> [John] Curtis & Mr. Thomas Tousey; for *Mr. Mix’ fort*—Ensign [William] Goodrich, Moses Craft and Jonathan Bunce; for *David Wright’s fort*—Serg<sup>t</sup> [Samuel?] Wright, Corp<sup>l</sup> Isaac Borman [Boardman] & Corp<sup>l</sup> [Samuel?] Hulbutt; for *Serg<sup>t</sup> Latimer’s fort*—Lieut. [James, or Josph?] Treat, Serg<sup>t</sup> [John] Latimer & Ebenezer Kilbourn; for *Sam. Belden’s fort*—Capt. [Joshua] Robbins, Dan<sup>l</sup> Borman & John Waddams; for *Jonat. Deming’s fort*—Lieut. [Jonathan] Borman, Serg<sup>t</sup> [Daniel?] Riley & Jonathan Deming; the squadrons [*i. e.*, the assignments of settlers who were to find refuge in each “fort.” The term “squadrons” probably refers to the male heads of families, who, being all armed men, were held to be under command of the officers of the respective forts] may be seen in the draught of the officers.”

The houses temporarily converted into castles of defense, under the vote above recorded, were situate as follows: (1) Captain ROBERT WELLES’ was near the site of the present State Prison, on land for-

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<sup>1</sup> That is, probably, as they had been arranged in 1675, when similar preparations were made against Indian attack.

merly of his grandfather, Governor Thomas Welles; (2) Rev. STEPHEN MIX's was about where Mr. Wm. H. Warner's house is, a few rods north of Damery's store; (3) Sergeant LATIMER's was on the east side of Broad Street, and next south of the Leonard Chester place; (4) DAVID WRIGHT's was at the West Farms (Newington), where he and Corporals Boardman and Hurlburt were then, probably, living; (5) BENJAMIN CRANE's was in Mud Lane, as it has of late years been called, near the site of the house lately of Samuel Coleman, deceased. It is called "Sam. Belden's fort," in the second part of the vote; probably because Crane was dead, and Belden's homestead adjoined that of Crane's heirs, on the north. (6) JONATHAN DEMING's was in Rocky Hill, on the corner where the house of James Warner now stands. None of these houses exist to-day. Others also, according to tradition, were fortified. One of them was demolished a few years ago. It stood where the house of Captain Thomas Williams, deceased, at Hang-dog, now stands.

In March, 1719-20, as we learn from *W. T. V.*, II, 7, Captain DAVID GOODRICH, Treasurer, was directed to take charge of the Town's arms and ammunition; and in August, 1722, the Town ordered a stock of ammunition to be purchased, and in December following, that "the Town's lead should be made into bullets; also that 34 pairs of Snow Shoes should be made for the Town's use, also the same number of "Maugisons" [Moccasins].

[*Wethersfield in the Andross Usurpation.*—The attempt made by Governor Andross, at the instigation of the English Government, to deprive the New England colonies of their Royal Charters and unite them under one Governorship, although strenuously resisted by the people, met with considerable sympathy from some of the inhabitants of the towns of Wethersfield, Stamford and Greenwich. These malcontents were such as, in the later Revolutionary period, were termed Tories—*i. e.*, men who were unwilling to sever their allegiance to the Crown, and were consequently disposed to submit quietly to the burdens and indignities which the majority of their neighbors resented. The three towns mentioned refused, at first, to send deputies to the restored Charter Government at Hartford, May 9th, 1689;<sup>1</sup> and sub-

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<sup>1</sup> Will & Doom, p. 62. On March 30, 1687, John Talcott, John Allyn & Sam. Talcott, sent a recommendation, in writing to the Gen. Court, at Hartford, advising said Court "to submit, voluntarily, to his Majesty's dispose" (as to the surrendry of the Charter, etc.); and they say: "We are against all further prosecutions, or engagements by law-suits, in opposition to his Majesty's known pleasure for our submission."—*Will and Doom*, p. 62.

sequently their discontent broke out in various acts of resistance to its officers. At Wethersfield, BENJAMIN CRANE and his brother, JOHN, were among those who, in 1690, refused to acknowledge the new government. For this and for saying that "the authority was a company of foresworn wretches; that it was not of the King nor of God, but of the Devil," which he acknowledged that he did say in his passion, Benjamin was sentenced by the Court to pay a fine of £15, and to furnish a bond of £50 for his good behavior. Upon his refusal, the Marshal was ordered to commit him to the "common gaol." He was bailed out by his brother John, but still continuing fractious, his brother John was ordered, April 19th, 1691, to return him to prison within two days. This he failed to do, and on April 21st, the bond was declared forfeited. In attempting to arrest Benjamin on the original *capias*, "a file of musketeers" had been employed (a most unusual and illegal thing to do in the serving of a civil warrant), and had broken in the door of his house with violence; and Mrs. Crane, "a young and naturally hearty and robust woman," then pregnant, was so much frightened "that it was thought she would have miscarried, or died presently." But, under the care of Dr. Bulkeley, she survived, though with permanently impaired health.

In October, 1690, the four listers of Wethersfield, viz.—NATHANIEL FOOTE, BENJAMIN GILBERT, Mr. SAMUEL WOLCOTT and SAMUEL SMITH, were arrested, under a *capias* from the General Court, by Wm. Goodrich, constable, for neglecting to hand in to the Court, the regular lists of estates. SMITH, who, at this time lived on the east side of the river, was rich and well along in years. He was inclined to doubt the authority of the restored "Charter" government; and was evidently about as high a Tory as was Dr. Gershom Bulkely. When questioned by the General Court, he "talked back" in a manner which led Governor Talcott to "clap his hand to his [sword] hilt," and to say: "If I put on my harness I will subdue these rebellious fellows, and make them pay their dues."<sup>1</sup> Smith was fined 40s and ordered to furnish a bond of £40 "for good behavior." Refusing to do this, he was committed in default, but a friend intervened and paid the fine, thus preventing the voluntary imprisonment he would otherwise have suffered. GILBERT in his resistance to the constable, had torn a piece from that official's "old calico neck-cloth"—as Bulkeley phrases it;<sup>2</sup> and was fined 40s. and ordered to pay Constable Goodrich 15s additional; and was also committed "during the pleasure of the Court."

<sup>1</sup> *Will and Doom.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

Mr. WOLCOTT, one of the most influential men of the town, escaped with a fine of 40s, it appearing that he was already suffering at the hands of the County Court, in a charge of cruelty (beating) to a servant. FOOTE was not fined, it appearing that he could not have attended to his official duties, if he had desired to. Gilbert and Wolcott's fines were paid by Ensign Zachariah Sandford, of Hartford. Ensign John Chester, Quarter Master Nathaniel Burnham, Sergeants Samuel Hale and Nathaniel Foote were appointed by the General Court in place of the delinquent officials.

Foremost in this opposition to the Charter Government, and loud in fulsome truckling to the Royal wish, and to Governor Andross, its exponent, was Dr. GERSHOM BULKELEY, of Wethersfield. A man of very superior education for that day, equally well versed in Law, Theology, Medicine and Surgery, yet of rather overweening self-importance, obstinate and outspoken in his own opinions and prejudices, he was eminently a man of power and influence in such a political crisis as then presented itself to the consideration of the community. The stand which he took, naturally attracted the attention of Governor Andross, who flattered him with an appointment as Justice of the Peace; but, owing to his never having been admitted a freeman; the commission was of no force. Free as his speech undoubtedly was on matters political, his pen was equally forceful and active. In September, 1692, in company with one Major EDWARD PALMES, of New Haven, a son-in-law of the first Governor Winthrop, and WILL ROSEWELL, of Branford, who had also been commissioned by Governor Andross as a Justice of the Peace, Bulkely put forth a paper, which was presented to Governor Fletcher of New York, entitled, "*Some Objections against the p<sup>r</sup>sent p<sup>r</sup>tended Govern<sup>t</sup> in Connecticut, in New England, in America, Humbly tendered to Consideration, by,*" &c. In this paper, which was transmitted to England, to the Committee for Trades and Plantations, the authors profess their attachment to the government established by the Royal Charter, under Gov. Andross; declare that under it they "come to understand and enjoy more of the laws and liberties of free and natural Eng. subjects"—"more than they had ever done under [the former] Charter, to the resumption of which they object, as being "in opposition to, and in contempt of the Crown," as "utterly unlawful and inconsistent with their allegiance;" and which they characterize as a government "absolute, arbitrary and despotic," so that "in effect we have no law, but," as they term it, "*will and doom,*" and designed "right or wrong, to crush those who oppose their usurped and tyrannical authority."



This paper, undoubtedly written by Dr. Bulkley, was in December, 1692, remodelled, amplified, much original matter added, formally altered by the above named trio, and issued as a folio volume under the title of "WILL AND DOOM, or the *Miseries of Connecticut, by and under an Usurped and Arbitrary Power, etc., etc.* The preface, dated December 12, 1692, is signed *Philanax*. This work was sent to England and there much used in the interest of those who were seeking the abrogation, or forfeiture of the American Colonial Charters. Its curious title "Will and Doom," was derived from a Colonial law, enacted by the September General Court of 1689, when the authority of a revolutionary government had been called in question and the collection of rates was likely to be thereby embarrassed, and in which law the Court ordered that if any person should fail to give in their lists of rateable estate before the October Court, the listers, or the General Court itself *might rate them Will and Doom, i. e., at their discretion.* (*Conn. Col. Rec.*, 1678-1686, 388-9.)

The resolute stand taken by Connecticut, as exemplified by the action of Captain Bull, at New London, and of Colonel Wadsworth and others, at Hartford, ultimately saved the colony from being deprived of its charter. Bulkeley and the other malcontents at Wethersfield seem not to have suffered any molestation or punishment for their loyalty to the Crown. Aside from a natural feeling of loyalty, there is no doubt that Doctor Buckely's political sagacity clearly foresaw that the popular agitation which he so deprecated was rapidly tending towards a Revolution, which would lead to a severance of the colonies from the Mother Country—a conclusion perfectly abhorrent to his conservative and loyal convictions.—*H. R. S.*]

## CHAPTER VI.

*Ecclesiastical Organization—The Minister—The Meeting House—  
The Parsonage—The Evolution of the Parish, and of the Ecclesiastical Society—The Old Burying Ground.*

[BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ.]

THE MINISTER, in the early days, was generally the most conspicuous figure in the community, and *de facto*, if not *de jure*, an officer of the town. He was chosen and paid by the town; his sermons were listened to by the town's people, assembled on the Lord's day and lecture days in the meeting house, erected by the town and used for all town meetings and other town gatherings. He was freely consulted by the townsmen on matters of public concern; and his advice was frequently sought even by the General Court, in questions concerning his own, or neighboring towns. Socially, he stood at the head of the list, on easy terms with magistrates and nearly, if not quite, equal to the governor and deputy governor. When he moved abroad, he was greeted with doffed hats from men and boys, and with "curtesies" dropped by women and girls. When he entered the meeting house, or a private dwelling, all rose till he was seated; and when he left, again they rose and remained standing until he had passed. No class of men in New England held themselves (by virtue of their calling) in such high esteem, or exacted the same respect from their fellows, as the clergy. They ruled like kings in their several communities, and it is infinitely to their credit, that they ruled as wisely and benignly as they did. Any utterance even which might seem to be defamatory of them, or tending to lessen the weight of their sermons, or teachings, was promptly dealt with by the General Court—a few samples of which may be found in these pages.

Besides this care for their interests by the authorities, the minister of each town felt himself to be legally entrenched against all maladversion, opposition or interference from sectarianism, etc., in his parish. In 1658, the General Court expressly prohibited people from attending upon, or *entertaining* any minister "distinct and separate from and in opposition to that which is openly and publicly observed and dispensed by the settled and approved minister of the town."

After a time, however, the General Court, in 1672, began to recognize the possibility of there being two or more societies, or "assemblies," in the same town and of the necessity of providing for a division of taxes to support the several ministers, in such case. But it would not then admit of the existence of two, or more, *parishes*, having definite and separate territorial limits, in the same town. As a rule, at this time, there was but one parish in a township, and the territorial limits of town and parish were co-extensive, the business of both being done at the town meeting.

In 1679 the General Court, after declaring its preference for the "Congregational Churches," gave its permission for "persons of worth for prudence and piety, who are *otherwise* persuaded" to "have allowance of their persuasion and profession in church wages or assemblies, without disturbance. This seems to have been a long step toward the recognition of the right of Dissentors and Separates. (*Col. Rec. II*, p. 109.)

In October, 1697, the General Court provided for the maintenance of ministers in the several towns, plantations and "societies," by the towns or plantations. In October, 1699, for the first time, the law provided for the formation, by special permission of the General Court, of two or more *societies*, having separate territorial limits, in the same township. It provided that the minister chosen by a "major part of the householders of the town, plantation, or society," should "be accounted the lawfull minister;" and that the minister of a society should be supported by the taxpayers of such society.

In Wethersfield, the whole original township, constituted one society, or parish, until the formation of Glastonbury town and parish, in 1693. It still remained one society only, with its *reduced area*, until the organization of the West Farms people, into Newington parish, in 1712. The history of the several societies, then and thereafter formed, will be given under the head of *societies*.

The records of Wethersfield Township, which include the votes concerning its minister, prior to March 16th, 1646-7, are lost; consequently, our sources of information as to the preachers and the settled minister, for the first twelve or thirteen years of the town are quite scanty.

The settlement of a minister for the town was always a matter of the deepest concernment. Thus, on the 24th October, 1665, it was voted in town meeting, that Samuel Hale and Josiah Willard be "a committee for the town, to inquire and take advice, with the elders and magistrates of y<sup>e</sup> neighboring plantation, in reference to the pro-

viding of an able, sutable help, for the town, in the work of the ministry." Also, "that there should be a day of humiliation, kept by the whole towne, to seek to God, for guidance and success in the provision of a sutable able minister for the towne." It was usual to send the most important men as messengers to negotiate with the proposed incumbent of the pulpit.

It was the practice, apparently from the beginning, to provide a parsonage for the minister, and wood for his fuel; also pasturage for his cows. Some of them were given large tracts of land belonging to the town. The Rev. Gershom Bulkeley had 140 acres given him, at Dividend; and his colleague, Mr. Stone, received 100 acres, at the same place. The Rev. John Woodbridge was given 200 acres, for a farm, at the north end of Newington. The Rev. Stephen Mix was given 50 acres, which was laid out to him in the southwest corner of the town. The Rev. Henry Smith, the first *settled* minister, had 240 acres, on the east side of the river; but whether he received it by special donation, or in the general allotment of 1639, does not appear.

The earliest *salary* mentioned is that of Mr. Smith. In September, 1647, it was raised from £70 to £80.

*The Meeting House* was, as its name indicates, the place where all public meetings were held. Buildd and owned by the town, it was used on Sabbaths and "Lecture Days" for public devotional services; it was the political centre of the community, where they held their town meetings, elections and other public gatherings; and the "alarm post" to which they rallied when threatened by Indian attack, or when duly warned to appear, fully armed and equipped, to meet some emergency of "His Majesty's" service.

The meeting house possessed none of that sacredness in the minds of these men of Wethersfield, which pertained to the consecrated edifices in which they, or their forefathers, had worshipped in Old England. They were dissenters from the Established Church of the Fatherland; their places of worship, both in their own eyes and those of the church from which they had broken away, were only "conventicles;" and, as such were simply conveniences for all public town purposes. In Wethersfield, at least, the *drum* was oftener used to call the people together, whether for worship or secular purposes than the *bell*; although there was always a bell in the belfry.

The first, seond and even the last meeting house were used for town meetings. The two first undoubtedly *belonged* to the town; and the last one (the present Congregational Church) though built by the First [Ecclesiastical] Society, or under its auspices or belonging to it,



continued to be used by the town for many years. Indeed, it may be truly said, that it did not become a *church* edifice, as distinguished from a meeting house until a date within the memory of many people now living.

Whether the present structure is the *third* or *fourth* in the series of meeting houses which have stood or near the same site, is somewhat a matter of doubt. The first allusion to be found upon Wethersfield's records (and, indeed, the very first record which time has spared to us on those pages) is under date of April 22d, 1647, in which we find the townsmen contracting with one Joshua Jennings, to put in what we would, nowadays, call "the interior or finish" of a new and incomplete meeting house—*i. e.*, wainscoting, seats, pulpit, etc. This vote, together with some subsequent ones, relating to the same "job," we present herewith.

"This tow and twentieth day of April, 1647,<sup>1</sup> He, Joshuah Jennings, hath barggened with the Townsmen of Wethersfield [viz: Mr. [Rich. ?] Treat, Mr. [Robert] Parke, John Demon, Tho. Collman, Nath. Dickinson, for [to put] up seats in the Meeting House, w<sup>th</sup> wainscot, according to the seats [in the] Hartford Meeting House, and the said Joshuah is to p'vide [him]self, and is so to get his stufte in season that it be we[ll] dried, in order? that he may set them up betwixt this and the twen[ty] of November [*that he must*, erased]; he doth ingage himself for to do [the west (?)] end of the house, from the north dore to the south doore, the time aforesaid; and the rest to be done betwixt this and the last of March next insuing. And the Towne hath ingaged them selves for to pay the said Joshuah three shillings a yard for the said worke, being sufficient and well wrought, and good stufe, according to the patterne of Harford seats. The Towne is to p'vid plancks for the seats, and he to set them up. And the Towne is to find iron worke that they will have set up. His pay is nine pounds in hand, and the rest when he hath finished his worke; the pay w<sup>h</sup> the[y] are agreed upon is half wheat and half pease; sound and d[ry] and well drest, exsept three pounds in Indean; and to be [delivered] at the watersid, or in any house in Wethersfield w<sup>h</sup> the said J[oshuah shall] apoint, in Wethersfield.

"In witness [*the rest worn off from the foot of the page*].

The foregoing is the *earliest vote preserved*, relating to the first (or it may have been the second<sup>1</sup>) meeting house in Wethersfield. All the records of town votes, before the page on which the above was

<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 25-27.

written—are wanting. Some of the words are torn off, or are so indistinct, as to make it impossible to read them. Such words are included in brackets.

“The 26 of September, 1647.

“It is ordered by the Townsmen this present day, that there shall be [a rate] made of five and twenty pounds, to pay for the keping of the w[atch] and nine pounds to Nath. Dickinson, w<sup>h</sup> he paid to Joshua, for the setting up the seats in the Meeting House; and other debts [that is] to say, five and twenty pounds.

“M<sup>r</sup>. Parke is desired to set upon the seing of the Meting House under-daubed & clapboarded; and the Towne hath given him a power [to] call forth such men and carts as he shall see fitt.”

[It appears that the town, on the first day of January, 1648-9, voted to pay, among other matters:

“To Tho. Kirkham, for two days’ work on the Meeting House 3<sup>s</sup>-4<sup>d</sup>; to John Edwards ‘for his man’s saweing of the planks for the seats, £1-10<sup>s</sup>; to Joshua Jennings, ‘for the seting up the minister’s desk,’ £1-0<sup>s</sup>-1<sup>d</sup>; to Sam. Smith, which he paid [Will?] Palmer, for a day’s work at the Meeting House, 1<sup>s</sup>-6<sup>d</sup>; to Will. Belden, for 900 ft. of boards for the Meeting House, £1-12<sup>s</sup>; ‘for the hingeing for the Meetinghous seats,’ about £2-10<sup>s</sup>.]

This structure, which they were, in April, 1647, just finishing, may have been and probably was, begun some years before; the exigencies of a new and struggling community having prevented its earlier completion. From the subsequently recorded vote of September 26th, of the same year, “desiring that Mr. Parke should attend to the under-daubing and clapboarding” of the edifice, we may infer that it had previously been simply a log structure, and that it was not until the seats (called for by the above contract with Jennings) were “set up” that the joints (or interstices between the logs) were filled with clay and (“riven”) clapboards put on over the whole.

Whether this meeting house of 1647 was the *first* one in Wethersfield is, as we have previously intimated, somewhat doubtful. From the fact that it was in progress of completion, twelve years after the settlement of the town, it would perhaps, be not assuming too much to suppose that it was the *second* one, rather than the first. This, at least, was the conclusion arrived at, by that very careful investigator, Mr. Nathaniel Goodwin, in his *Foote Genealogy*. But, to the writer, it seems more probable that, up to 1646 or ’47, the people had met in some dwelling house, or other building, not specially designed for the purpose. It is fair to assume, also, that this (1647) meeting house,

was begun in 1645, or certainly in 1646; that it was, as a building, complete and had been occupied for a season, with only moveable seats.

This first meeting house stood a few (probably not more than four or five) rods southwesterly from the present First Congregational Church.<sup>1</sup>

From the later recorded votes of September 26, 1647, and January, 1648-9, relating to the town's repayment to Mr. Nath. Dickinson of money which he had advanced to Jennings "for setting up the seats;" and directing the "underdaubing" and clapboarding to be forwarded; it is reasonable to suppose that by the winter of 1648-9, the Wethersfield meeting house was made fairly comfortable for the good people of the town, while they listened to the long Sunday sermons, or week-day "lectures" of their pastor.

"This 28 day of the month of December, 1649.

"It was voted by the whol Towne, this p'sent day, that ther should be chosen 3 men to seat men and women in the meting house; & the Towne chose M<sup>r</sup>. Trat, Sam. Smith Senior & Nath. Dickinson; and they w<sup>h</sup> are plast [placed] by thes[e] doth ingag[e] themselves to sit downe contented & duly satisfied w<sup>h</sup> what thes 3 do in this work."

This "seating the meeting house," was a matter of much importance with our forefathers; and was done with great care and consideration (not to say difficulty) by the "seating" committee—a body usually rather numerous and of the best social standing and acknowledged ability. Our ancestors had not been so long away from their English homes as to have lost all consideration for social rank and distinctions; consequently the estimation in which a man or woman was held in the community wherein he dwelt, was very clearly shown by the seat which was assigned to him or her in the meeting house. The completest schedule of this process of "dignifying the seats," as it was sometimes called, which we have found among any old New England town records, is that formulated in the instructions given to a Wethersfield seating committee, in March, 1717, wherein they were directed to seat the people according to the following "grounds of advancement, viz.: *Age; dignity of descent; place of public trust; pious disposition; estate; peculiar serviceableness of any kind.*"

Still the edifice, though in use, was not complete; the work seems to have dragged, for March 8th, 1651-2, the town appointed Samuel

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<sup>1</sup> About where the flag-staff recently stood: for its successor (which was understood to have been placed where the old one stood) occupied that spot.

Smith, as its agent, "to se that Hen. Palmer clapboard the meting house, betwixt this and the first of May next; and if he do it not, having clapboard layd by him [*i. e.*, furnished him], the said Smith hath power to take a warand, and sew him, that he may force him to do the worke."

From the various scraps of history which we have gleaned from the records—we are able to "piece out" the following *idea* of the appearance of this *second* meeting house, viz.: Square in form, one story high, with a hip roof,<sup>1</sup> with a belfry in the middle—agreeing, probably, with the plan and style of the earliest meeting houses of that day. We have reason to believe that it was begun in 1645, and not completed until 1652; that it was originally a log structure; that for several years it had only temporary seats, if any; that, in a few years, plank seats were "set up,"<sup>2</sup> with hinged doors attached; that the building had a north and south door; that finally the original log walls of the building were "daubed," or filled in, with clay (then commonly used as mortar), and the whole covered with riven, oak clapboards. That it had a bell is certain from the fact that, in 1657, William Palmer was employed to ring it, and in 1658, Hugh Wells succeeded him in that duty; and in 1659-60, the bell and drum were used indifferently, as will be seen from the following town vote:

*Drum.*—In September, 1648, William Smith was paid for beating the drum on "the Lord's days" for sixteen months then last past. In February, 1659-60, "goodman [John?] Edwards" was employed to "sweep the meeting house, and beat the drum, or ring the bell and keep the dooers shet; and for his paines he is to have—£2-5<sup>s</sup>-0<sup>d</sup>."<sup>3</sup> But, in the following year, February 22d, 1660, it was, for some unexplained reason, "*Voted*,<sup>4</sup> that the Bell should be rung noe more, to call the Assembly together, on the Sabbath and Lecture days; but that the drum should be beaten at such times." Probably, the drummer, who was also the town crier, went through the streets and lanes of the village beating the drum, as he went. This bell, thus unceremoniously supplanted, for the time being, continued in use until about 1679, when a new one was ordered for the town's use, and the material

<sup>1</sup> Unless it may, like the first Windsor Meeting-House, have had a "deck," or flat surface along the ridge of the roof, whereon the sentry could walk to survey the country around, and from whence the "Town's drummer" could sound his alarm upon the drum. See Stiles' *Hist. et Geneal. of Ancient Windsor, Conn.*, Vol. I., line 6, p. 89.

<sup>2</sup> In March, 1649, John Edwards was paid 30s. for "sawing the planks for the seats." Such sawing was then done by hand, and by two men, at a saw-pit; one man in the pit, the other outside and above the pit.

<sup>3</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 63.

<sup>4</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 69.



of the old was directed to be employed in the making of the new one—cast, probably, in England. In 1666, Tho. Wright, Jr., was chosen town drummer. In 1667, Serg. Hugh Welles was employed to beat the drum for church and town meetings; and in 1668, he was again employed for that purpose. In 1694, one of the three John Demings then in Wethersfield was distinguished from the others by the prefix “Drummer” to his name; but whether he was town-drummer, or drummer to the “train band,” does not appear. In February, 1707-8, the town voted that Will Goodrich should ring the bell on Lord’s days of public meeting, and nine o’clock “a night.” This may, however, have been the practice at an earlier date, since we know that it was so rung in Hartford, as early as 1662. Judd (*Hist. Hadley, Mass.*) remarks; “*In Wethersfield, the nine o’clock bell has never been discontinued.*”

In early times, the meeting house must have much resembled a garrison, or citadel. In April, 1661, it was voted “that the garde shall apeare in *armes complete*, every Lord’s day and lecturer day; that armes and ammunion at ther one [own] finding; and p[er] every defict to forfeit twelve pence p. man.” They were paid 5s. per annum each, and had “liberty to chouse ther owne officer.”

In March, 1665-6, we learn from *Town Votes* that the meeting house was again in need of some enlargement of seating capacity and repairs.<sup>3</sup>

“Feb. 2, 1670. At a Towne Metting it was voated and agreed to remoue the setes in the meting house, to the bredth of two plankes, in to the great allye, on each side; and to make a new dore-case and dore, suttible to the allye.

“And Ensigne Will. Goodrich, Sam<sup>ll</sup> Borman, Sen<sup>r</sup>, & John Rily Senior, are chouse a comite to see this worke caried on; and also two seates on each side the metting house.”<sup>4</sup> This would seem to indicate that to secure an increase of seats the main aisle was to be narrowed up.

“February the 23d, 1670.

“Att this Towne Meeting, Serjea. John Nott, Sam. Haile Senior and John Bellden were chosen a committee to repayer the *whole* meeting house.”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 91.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 109, 111.

<sup>3</sup> March 20th, [1666.]

“Att the same Towne Meeting, March 20, ’65-6, it was voated and agreed: that this yeere the Meeting house should be repaired, upon the Town’s cost; and this busines is left to the discretion of the Townemen, to do as they shall see to be needfull.”

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 111.

"June 1st, 1674-5.

"At this Towne meeting the Towne, taking into consideration the great necessity of repairing the Meeting House and enlarging the same, made choice of M<sup>r</sup> Samuell Talcott, Lieutenant John Chester, Ensigne Will. Goodrich, Sergeant John Nott, Sergeant Hugh Wells, to be a committee to consider and determine in what manner it shall be repaired and enlarged; whether by galleries, or otherwise; giving to the s<sup>d</sup> committee full power to act in and about the premises; as allso to bargain with any workman, or workmen, for the repairing and enlarging thereof; and to take care of the said worke, untill the Meeting House be in all respects so repaired and enlarged as may be most profitable for the preservation of the building, and *most honorable and comfortable* for the entertaining all the inhabitants of the Towne, in all publick meetings, according to the best skill and judgment of the s<sup>d</sup> committee. And the Towne doth inguage to supply them with what money they shall stand in need of, for the carrying on of the said worke untill it be finished." <sup>1</sup>

That these "galleries" were built, is evident from a vote passed in December, 1683, providing that "no lad, under ye age of sixteen yeers, shall sit in the galleries, on y<sup>e</sup> penalty of five shillings; or else *corporal punishment*, as may be by y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen judged fit."

From the foregoing note, and that of July, 1685, given below, it is evident that the meeting house which had now been in use for about forty years, was getting dangerously out of repair; and that the building of a new one could not be much longer postponed.

"At a town meeting, held in Wethersfield, July 28, 1685.—It was voated and agreed that the present Townsmen shall have poure to sette up fowr pillars within the Metinghous; and as many shoars as shall be needfull one the outside at the Town charge."

*The Third Meeting House.*—"It was also voated that the Townsmen shall caus a Town Meting to be warned, about the later end of August next, in order to the building of a new Meting Hous."<sup>2</sup>

Consequently, we find, that,

"Att a publique Towne Meeting in Wethersfield, August 28th, 1685.

"It was voated and agreed by the inhabitants, that there should be a Meeting House built by the Towne, of fifty foot square.

"Att the same Towne Meeting, Capt. Samuell Talcott, M<sup>r</sup> Samuell Woolcott, M<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel Boman, Sergt. John Deming, Sergt. John

<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 143.

<sup>2</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 191.

Robins, *Clark*, Samuell Butler, M<sup>r</sup> John Buttolph—were chosen a Committee, to take care about the building and careing on the work of the above said Meeting House. It was alsoe voated, at the same meetting, that Sergt. Sam<sup>l</sup> Hale and Samuell Smith shall be of the same Committee for the building of the said Meeting House.<sup>1</sup>

“It was alsoe voated at the same Meeting that there shall be one hundred pounds raised, of the inhabitants, by way of rate, which shall be improved towards the caring on of the building of the above said Meeting House.

This Committee was composed of prominent citizens, some of whom were distinguished in the affairs of the colony.

That the ideas and wants of the people of Wethersfield, in regard to this *new* meeting-house, were very much enlarged by this time, is very evident from the following votes, passed from time to time during the four or five years in which it was in process of building—for this was no hasty undertaking. It was intended to embody the best talent, the best material and the latest improvements of that period; consequently we hear of “doors and windows,” a “pair of stairs,” by which to reach the bell (hitherto, probably, rung by a rope reached from the ground), and capacious “galleries.” They probably had the Hartford meeting house “in their eye” as a standard of meeting-house excellence, and wished to be fully “up to the times.”

“Att a Towne Meeting, May 31, 1686.

“It was voated by the inhabitants of the Towne of Wethersfield, that there shall be Dorman windows built for the new Meeting House, at the Towne charge.<sup>2</sup>

“January 9th, 1687-8.

“At a Towne Meeting there was granted a rate, to be raised one the inhabitants of the Towne, of two hundred & eighty pounds, to defray the charges of this Towne, for the Meeting House, and other Towne charges.<sup>3</sup>

“Jan. 9th, '87-8. At the same meeting, the Old Meeting House was sold for eight pounds & 1 shilling, to be pay'd next year, by Nath. Ffutt [Foote], Ju<sup>r</sup>, M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Wells, Nath. Butler & Ebenezer Kilburne; who ware joyntly & severally bound to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Towne, for y<sup>e</sup> payment of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> eight pound 1<sup>s</sup>.<sup>4</sup>

From the above recorded sale of the old building, we may reasonably

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 193.

<sup>2</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 199.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 203.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 204.

infer that the *new* meeting house was in such a condition of completeness, as to be available for use. It closes the history of the first meeting house in Wethersfield of which we have any account.

What may be called the "corner stone" of this church of 1685-6, is now in possession of Mr. S. F. Willard, formerly clerk of the church. On one of its sides are cut the initials "I. G.;" on another, the figures 1686. These were, probably, the initials of Isaac Griswold (born in 1658), who was (as was his father Michael before him) a mason by trade. The figure, undoubtedly, indicates the year 1685-6, during which the walls of the underpinning were laid.

"Decembr 23, 1691.

"Att y<sup>e</sup> same meetting it [was] voated & agreed y<sup>t</sup> ther should be a paire of staiers built, conuient to go up to y<sup>e</sup> bell in y<sup>e</sup> Meeting Hous, upon y<sup>e</sup> common charg of y<sup>e</sup> Towne; y<sup>e</sup> townsmen to manag y<sup>e</sup> worke." In 1691, this vote was repeated.

This second meeting house, like its predecessor, seems to have originally lacked galleries. But by the following vote, in 1702, galleries were provided on the north, east and south sides of the house.

"March 4, 1701-2.

"At a Towne Meeting then held in Weathersfield: It was agreed by the inhabitens of say<sup>d</sup> Towne, and unanimously voted, that theare shuld be sutabel gallrys ereced, and cumpletly mad and fixed, in the Meeting Hows, for the conuent acomadating the inhabetense in a more desent and cumfortabel maner; which gallarys shal be the hole bredth of say<sup>d</sup> howse, on the east sid of s<sup>d</sup> meting hows; and for to joyn to that parte on ech sid of s<sup>d</sup> hows, viz.: the north sid and the south sid; and to be fixed to the west sid of s<sup>d</sup> hows, and a suitable heaight and breadth; as shal be ajdged by a Comitty, chosen and apointed to oversee for the fors<sup>d</sup> work performed and cumpletly finished.

"At the same meting was chosen a comety for the çaren on and cesing the abofes<sup>d</sup> work, viz.: the building and erecting the gallerys as abofes<sup>d</sup>. The Comity chosen is: Cap<sup>t</sup> Josue Robbens, Serg. John Curtise, Ens<sup>i</sup> Willem Goodrich, who are impowered to see the work forthwith complet<sup>d</sup> and finished, as sune as it may be conveniently preformed."<sup>1</sup>

In December, 1689, the Naubuc and Nyaug people were authorized to set up a separate parish organization among themselves, but their plans were delayed for some years; and the east side people were still compelled to cross the Connecticut River in all conditions of weather, in order to attend church services. In Dec., 1685, the follow-

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 219.



ing vote of the town afforded them some amelioration by providing for the comfort of their horses:

"Voted, that the inhabitants att Naubuck, and one y<sup>e</sup> east side of the Great River, shal have liberty to build themselves a Stable, to get their horses in one Sabbath days, & such like—somewhere neer the Meeting House, where y<sup>e</sup> present Townsmen shal se cause to appoint."

So that while they were shivering inside the meeting house, they had, at least, the satisfaction of knowing that their horses were not exposed to the icy blasts, or driving rain. A little later, however (1693) these east side folk received their long desired permission to build a church and establish a parish of their own on the east side of the river.

In May, 1688, it was voted to procure a new *bell* and to "make use of ye old bell to ye best advantage they can, towards the procureing the same." In December, 1691, it was voted to put up "a paire of staires, to ge up to y<sup>e</sup> bell in y<sup>e</sup> meeting house."

The year 1715, marks the introduction of *pews* into the Wethersfield meeting house; and the mention, in the following vote, of a "territ" (turret) leads us to think that the aesthetic instincts of the people were awakened in some degree, and that they desired to give their meeting house some features, other than that of mere size, to distinguish it from the houses and buildings around it.

"At a Town Meeting, lawfully assembled and held, in Wethersfield, y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1715:

"Voted—at this meeting, that one of the back seats on each side of y<sup>e</sup> Meeting House shall be pulled up, and pews built in their room, viz.: two pews on each side of the said Meeting House, in the room of said seats.

"Voted—at this meeting, that y<sup>e</sup> Committee which [was chosen for?] the work about the *territt*, shall be y<sup>e</sup> Committee to build the pews. The Committee is L<sup>t</sup> Benjamin Churchell, Serg<sup>t</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Wright, Serg<sup>t</sup> John [Robbins?].

"Also Voted—that after y<sup>e</sup> pews are built, the Meting House shall be new seated, by the Committe hereafter chosen & named, viz.: L<sup>t</sup> Joseph Talcott, M<sup>r</sup> James Treat, Serg<sup>t</sup> John Robbins, L<sup>t</sup> Jonathan Belding and Edward Bulkeley."<sup>1</sup>

This *third* meeting house occupied, substantially, the same site as its predecessor; and, with its "dormer" windows; its belfry (the "territ" aforesaid?) and bell; its galleries and pews, it must have been a very

<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 266.

complete and creditable edifice for those days—and a joy to every Wethersfield heart.

The following vote, passed in Society Meeting, December 26, 1737, indicates that there was an *upper room* in this meeting house, possibly used as a school room: "*Voted*, that £20 money be raised in Said Society to purchase boards for the Meeting House upper great floor, and for plastering the school house overhead."

In December, 1728, the meeting house required to be new clap-boarded, and though but 43 years old needed new window frames. In 1735, more pews were put in, to take the place of the long pews and guards.

The "keeping and repairing of the *clock* and bell" was a Society charge in 1734; and in 1741, Thomas Fox was paid £30 for this service. But in 1749, it was voted that "*a public clock* shall be procured by subscription and the subscribers shall have liberty to set it in the meeting house, and after that it shall be maintained at cost of said Society." (*First Society Minutes*.)

Prior to 1722, the various votes and acts pertaining to the meeting house, the minister and the parsonage, etc., had always passed in town meeting; but, after that date, all such votes were passed in meetings of the "First Society," until 1816, after which they were passed in meetings of the "First Ecclesiastical Society." This change of management and of title arose from the fact that, owing to the formation of Newington and Stepney into *parishes* (in 1712 and 1722, respectively) with power to regulate their own meeting houses and parish affairs, Wethersfield proper ceased to manage the meeting house and church matters of the remaining section of the township, which, by force of circumstances had become a parish by itself. Or, rather, the old parish, which formerly embraced the whole original territory of Wethersfield, was now so narrowed as to its limits, that it only embraced the residue of that territory east of Newington and north of Stepney parishes. Thereafter the *old* parish assumed the name of the First Society, and, as such, took charge and control of the meeting house which had previously been the charge of the whole town.

"*Sabbath Day Houses*," or "*Noon-Day Houses*."—These were small wooden buildings, of one or two rooms each, in the neighborhood of the meeting house, in which those living at a distance from the place of worship, might stay during the "noon hour" (the interval between services), on Sabbath days, and enjoy a dinner, cooked then and there, and the comfort of a fire. Usually one or two families

were accommodated in each. This was a very great necessity, when we consider the distances which some of these church-goers had to travel in order to attend the Sunday services, especially in winter or inclement weather. Whether such "houses of refuge" existed in Wethersfield, we know not from the records; but, as they were commonly found in all New England towns at that early period, it is probable that this town was not behind others in this provision for the comfort of worshippers—many of whom, also, were undoubtedly made comfortable "between services" at the homes of their relatives and friends in the village.

*The Fourth Meeting House.*—At a meeting of the First Society, 17th of December, 1753, the subject of building a new edifice was broached, but adversely determined. Two years later, however (1755), it was voted to "patch and not reshingle" the roof; and by January, 1760, the building being then 75 years old, and evidently beyond any satisfactory repair, a committee, viz., Col. John Chester, Col. Elizur Goodrich and Capt. Thomas Welles, was chosen and instructed to commence the erection of a new one. This committee decided, that the new building should be constructed of brick, and should not exceed 52 feet in breadth, and 80 feet in length, outside measurement; and that it should be located "within 4 rods Northeastward of the place where the present one stands." To effect this, it became necessary to purchase the home lot of Lieut. James Mitchell, at the cost of £66. In December of the same year, it was decided to have a "porch," at the end opposite to the steeple, and that the gallery stairs should go up in the steeple and porch, and not in the body of the house, "so that the congregation may not be interrupted by such as go into the galleries in time of worship, and that there may be more room in the house." In August the committee were authorized to raise so much money, as with the rates of 10*d.* per pound which had been already voted, would furnish the brick-work, floor, gallery, roof-timbers and roof-covering. A third tax of 10*d.* per pound was now laid, 13th of September, 1761, and a similar one in December. In March, 1762, a new rate of 2*s*, 7*d.*, was laid in lieu of the third and fourth 10*d* rates; and the committee had also borrowed £50 in New York. In December, 1762, such of the material of the old building as was unfit for use in the construction of the new, was ordered to be sold. In March, 1763, another 10*d* rate was laid throughout the parish, and in August one of 6*d* per pound; apparently this was the last one laid. Those 10*d* rates were equivalent to two cents and four mills to the dollar of our modern currency; but as we have no lists of estates from which to compute, we can not tell



MEMORIAL TABLET, IN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, TO THE FIVE  
DEACONS OF THE NAME OF STILLMAN.

*By Courtesy of the Connecticut Magazine.*



A VIEW OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER FROM THE CEMETERY.

*By Courtesy of Wm. F. J. Boardman.*





how much was thus raised by taxation; but we know that an additional sum was raised by subscription. At all events, the tax became very burdensome to the parish, and but for the staple crop of the Town (onions), which was allowed to be received in payment for taxes, would have been still more burdensome. The Society accepted *onions*, therefore, at 3*d* per bunch (a rope), provided they were well cured; and they were taken "at the risk of the Society," when shipped on board Elias Williams' vessel, at Rocky Hill, by order of Colonel Chester, who seems to have been the head and front of the building operations. He was, at this time, 58 years of age, an active business man and of rare good judgment; he was the father of Col. John Chester, Jr., of Revolutionary fame. His colleague, Col. Elizur Goodrich was about 67 years of age, the son of Col. David Goodrich, and like his father a veteran officer of the French Wars. He was also the maker (1760), of the brick used in the building of this new meeting house, the corner stone of which was laid May 6th, 1761. See *Appendix X*.

It was completed and occupied in 1764, and the seating committee was instructed to allow men and women to sit together; widows, however, were to be seated according to the judgment of the committee; and single persons were allowed to "choose their seat-mates." Young men of 20 and young women of 18 years of age were allowed to be seated by the committee, whose doings were not altogether satisfactory, as several committees were discharged and new ones appointed, until, at length, quiet reigned.

This edifice (with certain additions and improvements of more modern times), is the same still in use as the house of worship of the First Congregational Church. In its day, it was, without doubt the finest church edifice in New England, outside of "Boston-town"; and regarded by the then inhabitants of the township, as that Tory historian of Connecticut, Rev. Samuel Peters, maliciously remarks as "vastly larger than Solomon's Temple." Even now it is a source of pride to every son and daughter of Wethersfield.

The improvements above referred to have kept pace with the advance of the times. Thus, in 1771, a *lightning rod* was attached to the building, and it was voted to "color" the roof and steeple. Coincident with the erection of a new meeting house, the subject of a *new bell* was agitated. The Society's intention was to have a larger bell than that used in the old meeting house; but the expense of the new meeting house had made the taxes very heavy for those days, so the old bell was put up in the new steeple. Then came the death (1771), of Colonel Chester, who had been foremost in the matter, but whose estate was

found to be somewhat involved by reason of his undertakings for the Church; and finally came the War of the Revolution which took most of the active men away, for several successive years, and yet amidst all these delays, and trials, they forgot not their beloved meeting house, nor the bell. As soon as public affairs began to brighten a little (1782), we find, from the Society records, that they were still *talking* bell, and in March, 1784, it was voted to have a new "English bell of at least 1200 wt.," together with a "good *clock*, equal to that now in Farmington Old Society, with three faces." A tax was voted to pay for it, of "2 and one-quarter bunches of onions to the pound on the List of 1783"; and Mr. Joseph (brother of Gen. S. B.) Webb took the contract. This bell was to have cast upon it, the legend "John Chester, 1761," in acknowledgment of his valuable gratuitous services to the Society, in superintending the erection of the church, etc. This bell must have been put into place in the winter of 1781, as in February of that year, a Society vote was passed to "*raise the bell*," and affix blinds to the windows. The new bell weighed over 1311 pounds net, instead of 1200 pounds, and another tax was laid on the List of 1786, to re-coup Mr. Webb, whose good name had suffered somewhat by the increase of size, and consequent increased cost. It is a matter of tradition that when this bell was brought from New Haven, its progress was heralded and it was rung in every town through which it passed. As to the *clock*, it was put in place in 1791 and was not accepted until a formal report had been made, at the Society's request, by Mr. Daniel Lowrey, as an expert, that it was "good, strong and well constructed, and fully equal to that in Farmington Society."—*Society Recs.* It is very evident that Wethersfield folks were determined not to be behind any neighboring towns in the County, as to their church and its equipments.

In 1838, a general renovation and re-arrangement of the meeting house interior was effected, at a cost of \$1,354.59, which is thus briefly, but exactly described in the following document, found (with several newspapers of the date of September, 1838), under the pulpit, when the latter was taken down in November, 1882. It is in the handwriting of Judge Martin Welles:

"To those persons who shall read this Document in after years: Be it Known, that this Church was erected in 1761, with Pews. That the Pews & all the seats in the Gallery, & the Pulpit were taken down in 1838 & the front Gallery removed back Eight feet: the whole floor of the House raised up  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet. This Pulpit was then erected; new slips were made, both above & below; the front door raised up 15 inches.



THE OLD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND CEMETERY.

*By Courtesy of The Connecticut Magazine.*





"The Committee under whose Superintendence it was done were

Martin Welles  
Winthrop Buck  
Chester Bulkley

"The Contractors by whom the work was done were Thomas Havens, Wm. A. Havens, Hiram Havens & W [William, Jr.] Adams. The whole was done & paid for by Subscription. The Pastors of the Church were Caleb J. Tenney and Robert Southgate."

We may add that the renovated church edifice was newly furnished by the donation of "a splendid Bible;" and, by the Ladies" with a new carpet.

A "*portico*" over the south door was built within the last fifty years through the generosity of Mr. Chester Bulkley. *Window blinds* were furnished only as late as 1827, and then only for those in the gallery.

The introduction of *stoves*, dates from 1822, one at each end of the building, set up at the expense of certain subscribers; but the use of "foot-stoves" continued for some time thereafter, until the *furnaces* were set in the basement. In 1838, as we have already seen, the present slips replaced the old-fashioned high pews, which were converted into a fence, which stood, though much dilapidated, in front of the home-stead, late of heirs of Rev. John Marsh. The old *pulpit* was removed to the old Conference House, but is now stored in one of the gallery approaches of the church; a platform and pulpit being substituted, of more modern style. With it went the old *sounding-board*, whose removal had been attempted, as early as 1831, by some young villagers, who, one night, hitched a rope to it, at the other end of which a horse was attached. But all the horse's best pulling failed to dislodge it from its attachments. In 1875, this *bell* of 1781 was replaced by a new one.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A crack in the bell which had existed for several years previous, without serious impairment of tone, suddenly increased in the summer of 1875, and while ringing for Sunday afternoon service, August 28th, a large fragment, weighing a dozen pounds, fell out. On the 30th, a large part of the congregation met at the front of the meeting-house to pay their respects to the departing old friend. Its history and that of the congregation was given by the pastor, Rev. A. C. Adams, a poem on "The Old Bell," by a lady of the parish was read by Rev. Wm. W. Andrews, then a closing paper and the Doxology—and the old bell was gone. On Friday, 5 Nov., 1875, the old bell, renewed and enlarged, and weighing 2000 pounds, was raised to its place in the belfry, and rung in the evening to call the people to a sermon in the Chapel, at which a short sketch was given by the pastor of many of the celebrated bells of the world; the congregation sang, the bell was rung, and everybody was happy. The difference between the cost of the old and new bell (about \$400) was paid by individual subscription.

In 1882-3, there was a still more decided renovation of the church's interior, as well as considerable change in exterior, although at a sacrifice of some of its most interesting features. New seats, arrayed in a semi-circular amphitheatric form, were supplied, while stained glass windows replaced the old small-paned ones. The galleries on the east and west sides were replaced by new ones. The south gallery was taken down and a new one erected in an addition built on to the north side, and used as an organ-loft and choir gallery. These changes were made at a cost of \$16,000. Electric lights have recently been installed in the edifice, through the generosity of Mr. Henry Buck.

In 1803, it was proposed to keep *ladders* at the meeting house, for use in case of fire. The *Stocks* and *Whipping-Post* formerly stood about two rods northwesterly of the meeting house, where the present Bulletin-board stands. The following significant vote of the Society appears under date of 23rd of December, 1839: "All persons who have made use of tobacco the present season during the time they have occupied their slips, be requested to cleanse the same at the time they leave them."

*The "Conference House," or "Vestry," or "Chapel."*—Adjoining the present church edifice, on the north, a plot of ground, partly land of the First Ecclesiastical Society and partly of the "Burying Ground Lane," has been occupied by a building variously known by the above names. Early in the present century, Deacon Timothy Stillman had constructed, at his own expense, and on his own land west side of High Street, within a few rods of the late Dr. Warner's a building, called "The Conference House," in which religious services were occasionally held. It was a frame building of one story, capable of seating about 200 people; was well and substantially built, and it is said that the good Deacon, who had lost his only son, a promising young man, intended this as a memorial gift to the church of which he was an officer. At a meeting of the First Ecclesiastical Society, January 10, 1831, it was voted, "that the owners of the Conference House, have permission to remove the same on to the land of this Society, near the meeting house; the place to be fixed by the Society's Committee; the property in said house to remain fixed as it now is." On the 22nd of same month, the Society voted to "lease to the Trustees of the *Presbyterian* [Congregational] Church, [being the Pastor and Deacon] and to their successors," a piece of land to set the building in question upon. The land was to adjoin the church on the north, and "for such term of time as they shall agree upon for the use of said Church." Under this license, so to speak, the building was removed to

the spot assigned to it, and so placed as to occupy nearly the whole breadth of "Burying-Yard Lane." A brick basement (mostly above ground) was built for it, and it became the stated Chapel and Sunday school room of the church. For some years, private school was kept in the basement story. In a part of the same, partitioned off for the purpose, fire engine "Neptune, No. 1" (formerly of Hartford); was housed, also, the *hearse*, which had been procured in 1800. The latter, as well as the old fire engine, had previously been accommodated in a separate building on the same plot, built, or authorized to be built, by the First Society, in 1802. On the second (or original) first floor of the building, religious services, and the Sunday school were held. The desk was the original pulpit of the meeting house of 1761, from which it was taken at the renovation of 1838.

In 1872, the old chapel was removed to land of the late Ebenezer G. Havens, its purchaser, where it was occupied by him, adjoining his dwelling house. It was replaced by a brick structure, built by subscription, and occupied for same purposes as its predecessor, and also furnishing accommodation to the Wethersfield Society Library (including the Rose Library), organized in 1866. A separate building contains the *hearse* (the third, or fourth in order); and the old fire engine is "among the things that were."

*Music.*—Something may be said as to the music in "vogue," from time to time, in this old church. Up to 1771, as it appears, it was the custom to "line the Psalms," *i. e.*, the precentor, or leader, read one or two lines at a time, for the singers to follow. But, in that year, the Society voted to discontinue "the present method of reading the psalm line by line." Colonel Chester, Deacon May and Mr. Silas Deane were designated to arrange the stations of those "that carry on the principal part of the singing." John Chester, Jr., Nathaniel Goodrich and others named were "desired to lead in singing the psalms." The person who instructed in singing was called, in 1780, and for some time afterward, the "Singing Master"; but in 1799 and again in 1836, he is called the "teacher of Psalmody." Until recently, no instrumental music was afforded, excepting, occasionally, one or two stringed or wind instruments, in the willing, but not over-skillful hands of local musicians; and later came that distressing bellows-apparatus known as a melodeon. On April 25th, 1869, an organ was first used in the church.

*Rules, Covenants, Platforms, etc.*—Of these aids to church government, as connected with this venerable church, we have but few available sources of information. There have been times in its history,



when the Church itself did not know whether to call itself of the Presbyterian or of the Congregational order; and there have been intervals when the one title was changed for the other. In 1831, Mr. Samuel Galpin, Clerk of the Society, recording a vote of the meeting, mentions the pastor and deacons as the trustees of the "*Presbyterian Church*." But, afterwards, and apparently in another hand, the words "*or Congregational*" were inserted after the word "Presbyterian." A presbytery, in the sense of the Cambridge Platform of 1648, was apparently recognized, but in no broader sense. A "Ruling Elder" was, for a long time, one of the stated officers of the Church; and one of them in particular, Mr. Clement Chaplin (whose term of office began as early as 1636), was probably the cause of more discord in the parish than any other one person. He appears to have been officious and intermeddling both in matters ecclesiastical and civic; and having large landed possessions, got into many private controversies with his fellow townspeople. His domineering spirit and his wealth seem to have given him quite an undue influence, which was not exercised for the good or peace of the community. Perhaps, somewhat of his malign influence lingered along in Wethersfield, to the discredit of the office itself—which, indeed, seems to have been a sort of "fifth wheel" in the ecclesiastical chariot—for, in 1773, the Society formally adopted a rule, reciting that: "*Whereas, divers are of opinion, that there is also the office of Ruling Elders, who labor not in word and doctrine; and others think otherwise—we agree that this difference make no breach among us.*"

The attitude of this Society toward the Saybrook Platform of 1708, is evident from the only recorded vote, passed December 1, 1773 (after having listened to the reading of the certificate of the South Association of Hartford, as to the qualifications of the Rev. John Marsh, for the ministry), as follows: "This Society, in proceeding to the settlement of a minister, will attend to the directions given by the Great Head of the Church, in the Sacred Scriptures, *without reference to Saybrook Platform*, or agreement so called." President Stiles says of this platform that it sought to introduce "a triumvirate Presbytery in each congregation," but that "the authority of such presbytery was confined to such churches as received it—(*Convention Sermon*, pp. 65, 66).

As to its Confession of Faith, the rule adopted in 1773 was exceedingly liberal. The Society said, by its vote, "we esteem it sufficient that a church acknowledge the Scriptures to be the Word of God, the perfect and only Rule of Faith and Practice, and own the doctrinal part of those commonly called the Articles of the Church of England; or the Confessions, or Catechisms, shorter or larger, compiled by the

Assembly at Westminster; or the Confession agreed on at the Savoy, to be agreeable to the said Rule."

The rules, from which we have quoted, were drawn up by the then proposed new pastor, Rev. John Marsh, then 31 years old; Thomas Belding, a grandson of Rev. Stephen Mix, about 41 years old; Silas Deane, Commissioner to France, then 36 years old; and Stephen Mix Mitchell, then recently a tutor at Yale, 30 years old at this time, and subsequently United States Senator and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of this State. These gentlemen will be recognized as forming a sufficiently vigorous and competent body, to deal with the questions involved, and their ideas seem to have been adopted without cavil.

We have used the history and records of the old First Society in Wethersfield, as illustrative of the general form and progress of ecclesiastical development and organization. With the history of its ministry, and with that of the ministry and meeting houses, etc., of the later churches which have grown up within the bounds of Ancient Wethersfield, we will deal in another and more appropriate place in this history.

*The Parsonage*, like the meeting-house, was the property of the Town; and its construction, and repair, a charge upon the Town. We have no record evidence of the existence of a Town parsonage in Wethersfield prior to 1663. On the 24th of July of that year, "At a Towne metting. it was voated and agreed that M<sup>r</sup> [John] Hollister and Sm<sup>ll</sup> Borman shall treat with M<sup>r</sup> Haines, to obtaine him to preach at Weathersfield for some time; and also to provide a place in the Towne, which shal be suteable for him for his refreshment, upon the Lord's dayes, and also at other times, as ocasions shal requier; and the said Comitty to make returne to the Towne what they haue done."<sup>1</sup>

And, at Town meeting of January 30, 1663-4, the committee's report was received and their action confirmed. They had purchased from Thomas Wright and his son, Joseph, a plot of 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres, lying next north of the Burying Ground Lane. In exchange for this, the Town gave to the Wrights, or rather to Joseph Wright, the "town-lot" next south of what has since been known as the Silas Deane house. On it stood the old Town school house, and a dwelling—both of which Wright took by the exchange; and (in 1665) transferred to Hugh Wells. It is quite possible that the dwelling house referred to had previously been used as a parsonage; and that it was originally built by William Smith, to whom, the Town in 1647, had given the land; but, at what time the Town

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<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 77.

regained possession of the land which they thus, in 1663 exchanged for the Wright property, does not appear on record. The home of Clement Chaplin, the "Ruling Elder," stood next north of the old school house, and became the property of Mr. Henry Wolcott, in 1660, and later of his son, Captain Samuel Wolcott. The old Wright, or Town house, as it was now called, did not long serve its new purpose, for, in March, 1666-7, the Selectmen were empowered to sell, or exchange, "the Town house and home-lot," and to obtain a suitable dwelling house "for the entertainment of a minister." The committee, consisting of Ensign William Goodrich, Sergeant Hugh Wells and John Riley—reported the same month, that they had arranged with Samuel Hale, Sen., to exchange the Town's lot, with the house thereon (next north of the road into the burying ground), which lot the Town had obtained from Joseph Wright, for said "Goodman Hale's" house and lot. The latter was next north of the Town's lot, and had been purchased by Hale, in 1665, from Gregory Wilterton, who had bought it from John Russell and wife, that same year. It was a tract of four acres, originally the Rev. Henry Smith's (who had five acres); whose widow, Dorothy, Mr. Russel (father of the minister of the same name), had married. Hale still owed Wilterton £50 on the place; and this sum the Town assumed as part of the terms of exchange. Mr. Hale received his pay, in full, in April, 1669.—*Weth. T. Votes*, Vol. I, 100.

The Rev. Gershom Bulkley was the first occupant of this parsonage, in November, 1667; and his colleague, Rev. Mr. Stone, was allowed the use of the "parsonage grass-lot" by the meadow gate.

It is probable that this parsonage was not well suited to Mr. Bulkley's wants, for, in 1671, or earlier, the Town hired from Richard Treat, a dwelling house on the east side of Broad street, below the road into the Plain; and this house was hired, for ministers' use, until 1676, or later.<sup>1</sup> A formal vote was passed to build "a new house, upon the parsonage home-lot," in November, 1676.<sup>2</sup> In December, 1677, it was voted to build a *barn* "by the *new* parsonage house";<sup>3</sup> thus showing that the vote to build such a house had been executed. The whole was enclosed by a fence, in 1680. In December, 1694, the house had become so untenable that one was hired, temporarily; and a general repairing of the parsonage house was ordered "to be done with all convenient speed."<sup>4</sup>

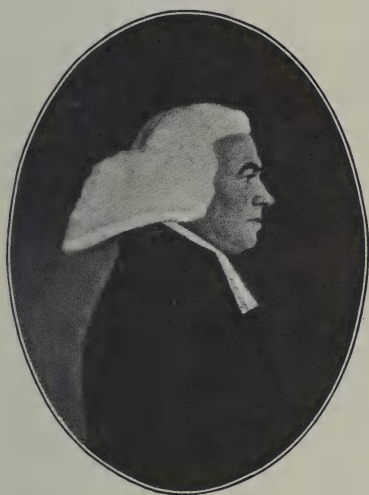
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<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 124, 138, 143.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem.*, 149.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem.*, 143.

<sup>4</sup> *Idem.*, 152.



REV. JOHN MARSH.



MRS. ANNE (GRANT) MARSH.





In March, 1738-9, the parsonage was sold at public auction. But the other lands of the Society being rented, the sale did not include the home lot belonging to the parsonage; for that appears to have been kept until 1761, when it, with meadow lands, was leased for 999 years. At about the time of this sale, the Society was the owner of eight separate tracts of land, the annual income from which, as obtained by leasing to the highest bidder, was about £85, at first, but gradually increased to more than £200. The present parsonage, given to the church, about 1838, by Mrs. Martha Bulkley, is situated on Main Street, just south of the High School.

*The Burying Ground.*—"Located nearly in the center of the present village of Wethersfield, and directly in the rear of the old First Church edifice, there rises above the low surrounding country, to an elevation of perhaps twenty feet, a nearly circular sand hill in the midst of a large tract of heavy loam. Proofs are not wanting that this hill was originally a burial-mound of the aborigines of the country. Tradition also tells us that, before the advent of the white men, the river rose to an unprecedented height, forcing the local inhabitants to encamp upon its summit for a period of several days, suffering meantime much inconvenience from a lack of food; and, from henceforth, it was known in local nomenclature as "Hungry Hill"—a name fraught with meaning to this day. And, nowhere in New England can a more beautiful natural location be found for the interment of loved friends, commanding as it does a wonderful prospect of the "Great River," winding for miles through its fertile meadows, with the uplands of Glastonbury in the background. Here, near the little log church, the fathers of the town were laid to rest, and, today, this cemetery, with its subsequent enlargements, is the only one in the present township." (*Preface to Wethersfield Inscriptions*).

As prior to 1821, there was no legislation, whatever, in Connecticut, regarding the burial of the dead, or providing a place of sepulcher for them, it became the practice of the respective towns to set apart a piece of ground for burial purposes, and to permit the burial of the dead therein, free of all charge for the ground. The fee of the land remained in the town; and there could be no private ownership, or sale of "lots" in the burial ground. After the formation of a parish, or a school society, it was usual for such parish or society to regulate and care for such burial grounds as were within its limits, the same as it did for its meeting houses, parsonages, etc.

Thus, in Wethersfield, the old burial place [we much dislike the modern name of cemetery] was controlled by the Town, until about

1733, when, without any formal vote upon the subject, the First Ecclesiastical Society, began to take charge of it, as of other parish matters. And, thereafter, when lands were purchased for its enlargement, the deeds were made—to the Society, and not to the Town. No private lots were sold within it, until the purchase of the Clapp extension, on the east, in 1853.

Its original area was small, abutting Westerly upon a large square (the Green), now mostly occupied by private owners, and, easterly upon the Great Meadow, and included little more than the crown of the hill before referred to, and its eastern slope. When the Rev. Henry Smith recorded his homestead, in 1648, he described it as “bounded south by the highway, and the burying ground.” The highway in question, extended along the north side of the public square, which then extended as far easterly as what is now known as the Marsh place.

In 1680, some confusion having arisen in consequence of the Town having sold building-lots from this public square, the Townsmen were empowered, with Lt. Samuel Steele, “to lay out the way to the Burying place, leaving Sam. Smith and the rest of the proprietors their due, and Mch., 1681, they reported that they had done so—making a highway  $1\frac{1}{4}$  rod wide, on the S. side of Zachary Seamer’s [Seymour’s] lot having first laid out  $\frac{1}{2}$  an acre to said Seymour,” and also “measured Sam. Smith’s lot and finding for him 1 rood and upwards of land.” Smith’s lot lay S. of the highway. In December of same year they negotiated with Mr. Nath’l Borman (whose land adjoined the Burying place on the N.), for a piece with which to make further enlargement—but it does not appear that any enlargement was then made. But, in 1683, a committee was appointed “to search for and lay out the common Burying place—the bounds of which were evidently in controversy.” In December, 1684, the same committee (Lieut. Sam’l Steele, Ens. Sam’l Wright and Sgt. John Robbins) were empowered to purchase land from Nath’l Borman (not to be confounded with Nath’l Boardman), and by that purchase they established the bounds of the Burying place to be 7 rods wide and  $23\frac{3}{4}$  rods long.<sup>1</sup> In 1726, there appears to have been a further enlargement, by purchase of three parcels of land from Wm. Nott and Lt. Martin Kellogg, all having been originally part of the Public Green. In 1730, the Town attempted to enlarge the Burying ground on the westerly side by purchase from Nath’l Burnham, at that time owner of the Sam’l Wyllys’ place (present Marsh place), but no deal was effected. Between 1733, and ’36, however, by an

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<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, III., 203.

exchange with Mr. B. and certain re-adjustments of fences with adjoining owners, on the N. side (in consideration of which the Society agreed to maintain road fences) the area of the Burying place was much increased.

In 1757, it was voted that all apples, herbage, etc., in the Burying ground should be the perquisite of Stephen Wright, so long as he rings the bell and keeps the cattle off the Burying ground. He held the position as late as 1775, and received £10 wages. In 1784, Samuel May performed this duty, at £12 per annum, and in 1795, Wait Goodrich was the Sexton and got £15. (*First Eccl. Soc. Minutes.*)

Again, in 1760, the ground was increased on its west side, bringing the burial line nearly up to the foundations of the present church edifice, whose corner stone was laid 6 May, 1761. In 1853, the First School Society, into whose hands the care of the property had passed, purchased over  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres on the east side—forming what is known as the “Clapp Extension,” but the last and largest addition to its area was in 1881, when 2 acres on south side were sold by the heirs of Rev. John Marsh. The earliest stone extant in the ground is that of Leonard Chester, 1648, though there had been several burials previous to his; and the only two other remaining stones erected prior to 1700, are also of the same family, viz.: those of Capt. John Chester, 1697, and Mrs. Sarah Chester, 1698.

*The Sunday School* of the Congregational Church in Wethersfield, was commenced in 1817, but until 1823, was closed during the coldest weather, since which time continuous sessions have been held. From its annual report, in May, 1825, and signed by Rev. Caleb J. Tenney, it appears that the number of scholars during the year was 173, the number remaining in the school at end of year 108; school hours from 1 to 2 p. m. In 1824, the school which had previously been under charge of the pastor, came under control, as Superintendent, of Mr. Wm. Guild, then a teacher in one of the public schools, who served until 1828, and was succeeded for a year by Mr. Wm. Kirby. He, in turn, was succeeded by Mr. Ebenezer Stillman until 1834, and he by Mr. Chester Bulkley, who alone, or with an assistant, served until 1848, when Mr. Leonard R. Welles was chosen superintendent. He was followed by Mr. Wm. Willard, until 1857, by Mr. Elisha Johnson until 1855, by Mr. R. A. Robbins until his death in 1895. Since Mr. Robbins' death, Mr. S. F. Willard has been Superintendent. Whereas, in 1852, being then the only Sunday School in the town, it had a membership of 170, with an average attendance of 100—now (1903) with five other schools, one of which (being



entirely officered and taught by members of the Congregational Church and congregation) is largely made up of persons who would otherwise be members in this school—and with little, if any increase of population, the school numbers 300, with an average attendance of about 175. Between 1857 and 1903, also, about 300 members of the school have united with the Congregational Church, besides those who have joined other churches here or elsewhere.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE PARISH, AND OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL SOCIETY.—*First or Wethersfield Society.*—In a certain sense, this has existed from the plantation of the township; for the original settlement was quite as much an ecclesiastical institution as civil, or political. For many years the affairs of the church, there being but one, were managed and conducted, mainly, in town meeting; the church edifice was the “meeting house,” or place for public meetings generally; and it was built and owned by the town. The minister was chosen and paid by the town, as a public officer. Territorially, the ecclesiastical and civil jurisdiction were the same. Town and Parish were one, until the formation of the first *new*, or additional Parish. The formation of a Parish at Naubuc Farms, or Glastonbury, did not make an exception to this principle—for there, the Parish was not constituted until 1692, *after* the new township within which it existed, was formed, out of Wethersfield territory, 1690. When the “West Farms” Parish (Newington) was formed December 24th, 1712, this left the old Parish, not then named, otherwise than “Wethersfield,” bounded N. by Hartford; E. by Glastonbury; S. by Middletown; W. by Newington Parish.\* The latter, by the Act of May session, 1713, had its E. bounds two miles and fifty rods E. of Farmington west line; consequently, Wethersfield Parish was bounded W. by a line 2 m. 50 rods E. of Farmington west line, and parallel thereto. When Newington was divided, in 1715, by setting the S. part of it off to the Great Swamp Parish, of Farmington, Wethersfield Parish was bounded W. by Newington (or, as it was then called, “Wethersfield West Soc.”), in part, and partly by Great Swamp Soc.; which latter came to be called “Kensington” in 1722. Again, after March 5th, 1722, the original Parish was further limited on the S. by the formation of Rocky Hill farms into a Parish, afterward known as “Stepney” Parish. The residue of the township, as it was not included in Newington, Kensington, nor Stepney (all that have ever been carved out of the original Parish) constituted, as it still constitutes, practically, what is now known as the “First School Society,” another name for Wethersfield Parish. The bounds of the three derivative parishes above named will be more par-

ticularly stated under their separate heads. Their ministers and houses of worship will also be considered in another connection.

The earliest date at which Wethersfield held *parish* (or Society) meetings, as distinguished from *town* meetings, was on the 19th of December, 1722. This was about nine years after Newington Parish had been set off (May, 1713), and some months after the setting off of Stepney Parish (Rocky Hill), March 5th, 1722. But it is not to be inferred from this that either of these parishes is older than Wethersfield First Society (as it called itself in its first parish meeting); for always prior to 1722, Wethersfield parish and town meetings had been merged into one, so far as the *original*, or "First" Society was concerned. At this first meeting, December 19th, 1722, Nathaniel Burnham was chosen clerk; a Society's Committee, consisting of Lieut. Joseph Talcott, Lieut. Robert Wells, and Lieut. Isaac Riley were chosen, for the ensuing year; David Deming was chosen collector. It was also voted that Society meetings should be holden annually, on the second Monday in December.

The records from this time until 1735, are interspersed among the Town Votes, Vol. II. The doings of the Society will be considered elsewhere, under the head of Churches and Schools, etc.

*School Districts and Societies.*—In October, 1717, "Parishes, or Societies" (the Act uses both terms) were authorized to levy rates and taxes on the "inhabitants" within their limits "for the support of the ministry and *School* there as the law directs." The First Society of Wethersfield availed itself of this authority, and for many years until the formation of *School Districts* within it, exercised the entire jurisdiction over the ways and means of education of the youth within its limits. There were *two* school houses in the Society's limits at the time of the passage of the Act authorizing the formation of "Districts" for educational purposes, in October, 1766. Until 1772, in fact, when the Society was divided into three districts, it had *exclusive* control of the schools within its bounds. Until the abolition of School Societies (practically, at least as to schools), in 1856, it had jurisdiction as to *Society* Schools, as well as burying grounds, pounds, shepherds, herders, etc. These powers were restored to it by a special Act, in 1862, since which time the Society has existed as of old. It is believed, however, that the practical effect of the Constitution of 1818 (Article VII), with other causes, was to divorce the educational and religious functions of the Society; in other words, to take away from it its parochial powers, as to *churches*, so that the latter became vested in the congregations or ecclesiastical authority, to which they appertain respec-

tively. *Religious Societies*, as distinguished from parishes, or *School Societies*, were authorized by law in 1777 and 1791; but, as a rule, at least, they were without definite territorial limit, and their existence did not affect the *status* of the parish in which they happened to be formed. All "*inhabitants*" in the Parish were subjected to taxation for the support of the church, etc.; but after the Acts of 1777 (relating to "Separates") and 1791, such as were united to any church or congregation other than that which had been the *parish* church—were exempted from payment of parish, or stated church rates, though still liable to pay the *other* Society taxes; such as school, burying ground, etc. But there were no "Separates" in Wethersfield First Society before the adoption of our Constitution.

The bounds of the First School Society remained as they were left after the formation of Stepney Parish (1722) until 1829, when that part of the N. line of Stepney Parish between the main road from Wethersfield to Middletown, and the old road from Wethersfield to Berlin—was changed so as to carry it far enough S. to include the dwelling house of James Griswold 2d. Again, in 1871, when Newington Township was formed, the west line of Wethersfield First Society, though not *in terms* changed to conform to the new town line, may have been so in effect. But, the next year, 1872, the following was established as the dividing line between both the towns and parishes of Newington and Wethersfield: Beginning at such a point in the S. line of Hartford on, or near the ridge of Cedar Mountain, that a straight line extended S. from said point to W. side of a highway intersecting a road known as the N. crossing, near Dr. Gurdon W. Russell's house, shall be coincident with the W. line of said highway, extended N. from said point of intersection; thence S. along the W. line of said Highway, to where it intersects the E. line of the old H. & N. H. Turnpike, near Matt. Callahan's dwelling house; thence S.  $11^{\circ} 15'$  E. one chain 50 links, across said Turnpike, to the S. W. cor. of Wm. Hubbard's land, said corner being N.  $65^{\circ} 30'$  E., 270 links from the N. E. cor. of said Callahan's house; thence S.  $40'$  W., in the W. line of lands of Steph M. and Dudley Welles, to a highway known as Staddle Mill road, 39 chains, 50 links; thence across said Staddle Hill road, in nearly the same course, in the W. line of a highway known as Back Lane, 79 chains 28 links, to Steph. B. Churchill's land, at S. line of an old highway running W.; thence W. in S. line of said old highway, 30 chains, 30 links, to E. line of 20 rod Highway; thence S. in E. line of sd 20 Rod Highway, 28 Chains, 27 links, to the monument at the corners of the towns of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill.

WEST FARMS OR NEWINGTON SOCIETY.—As the history of this Society, as given in Judge Adams' manuscript, has been much more fully presented by the historian of Newington, Roger Welles, Esq., in Chapter XIX, of this history, we prefer to refer our readers to that Chapter; especially as we thus economize the space which would be lost by printing both statements of the same subject.



## CHAPTER VII.

### *Early Inhabitants of Wethersfield—With Notes on Their Land Holdings.*

[BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, Esq.]

[If Judge ADAMS had written nothing else about Wethersfield, than this chapter, he would still have rendered an inestimable benefit to the student of its history. It was in itself a formidable undertaking to examine, sift out and thus set forth the ever changing titles of the land holdings of an entire community, for a period of nearly 250 years, and it most admirably displays, his love of his native place, his keen appreciation of historic values, his indefatigable industry, and the *tactus eruditus* of his professional training.

It is a chapter to be constantly studied with the family genealogies of our second volume. In its original manuscript form it contained many genealogical references and items relating to the civil offices held by the individuals mentioned. These items, in the interest both of homogeneousness and of the consideration of space, which has become so necessary to this work, I have transferred to the genealogies, retaining *only* those names which clearly appear in the Town's Land Records, as those of *land-owners*.

It must, also, be understood, that the dates here given as to the first coming of the several settlers to Wethersfield, must not be accepted as marking the actual time of their first appearing here. "Procrastination, the thief of time," was then, as ever, a fault to which men were liable; and the records themselves bear witness to the fact, that many of the early settlers neglected to bring in descriptions of their lands to the Town Recorder, for entry, until compelled to do so, by the Order of the General Court, in 1640.

Condensation of space, before referred to, has also been furthered by abridgement of words and terms used—see *List of Abbreviations* in the forepart of this volume.—*H. R. S.*]

ABBOTT, ROBERT, rec. his ho-std. 5 April, 1641, ho., barn, 5 ac. 1d; High St., E. Hartford way (now Sandy Lane) S. ho-lot of Rachel, wid. of John Brundish, W. ho-lot of Thos. Wright, N. sold to Thos. Olcott of Htfd.

- ADAMS, BENJAMIN, (son of Wm. and Elizabeth of Farmington) 1649: had ho. in Weth. adj. Wm. Clark's in 1696, or earlier; was assessor, or lister, 1700: in 1712 he, with David Buck, was chosen gd-Juror, being the first time, as far as records show, that such office was filled in Weth. His wife was Elizabeth (dau. of Thos. and gr-dau. of Nathaniel) Dickinson, and b. Dec. 6, 1668.
- ADAMS, DANIEL, adm. inhab. of Weth., 19 Aug., 1695.
- ADAMS, THOMAS, owned ld. in Great Meadow, which he sold, 1640, or earlier: but seems to have been taxed to support the fence to Meadow, as late as 1640. *W. T. V.*, II., 29.
- ALCOCK, "Mr." PHILIP, lister, 18 Aug., 1701—was he from New Haven?
- ALLIS (see *Ellis*) WILLIAM, (son of Samuel, of Hadley?) chosen collector, 1712; packer, 1713. Perhaps s. of John of Hadley.—See Judd's *Hadley*.
- ALLYN, "Mr." THOMAS, (bro. of Mathew). *Savage* cr. him to Weth.—See *Genealogies*.
- ALLYN, "Mr." JOSEPH, voted an inhab., 25 Dec., 1707, from Hartford.
- ANDRUS, (Andrews) JOSEPH, (son of John of Farmington): had saw-mill at West Farms (New.), 1683, where Town gave him ld. for ho. and barn near his mill, in 1684. Was one of petit. for parish rights in 1712: allotted share in common lds. in 1694.
- ANDRUS, BENJAMIN, (son of Joseph of Farmington, gd-s. of John of F.); one of petitioners for parish rights, at West Farms (New.) 1712.
- ANDRUS, DANIEL, (son of Joseph and gd-son of John, of Far.); a petitioner for parish at West Farms (New.) 1712, res. at S. end; wife, Mabel (dau. of Jacob) Goffe of Weth.
- ANDRUS, EPHRAIM, (son of Joseph, of Cow Plain, Weth.), petit. for parish at W. F. (New.) 1712; had a third interest in his father's saw-mill which he leased for 999 yrs. to James Francis, 1716.
- ANDREWS, JOHN, adm. inhab., 1703—was he son of John of Far.?
- ATWOOD, (son of Capt. Thomas) b. 1 Sept., 1671; shared in common lds. ■■ res. ld.-owner, 1694.
- ATWOOD, Capt. THOMAS, *Savage* says, he was *not* a Capt., but a physician from Htfd., 1668-69; drew lds. as "householder," 1670; bo't Rob't Foot'e lot by Goffs's Bridge, 1663, 24 ac.
- AYRAULT, Dr. NICHOLAS.—See *Genealogies*.
- BARNES, MATTHEW, drew ld. as a landowner in 1694.
- BARNARD, JOHN (of Hartford), owned ld. in Weth. Great Meadow, 1660.
- BASSUM, WILLIAM.—*Conn. Col. Rec.*, I., p. 4.

BATES, ROBERT, rec. lds. 10 March, 1640, ho., barn and 6 ac., bd. Commons on High St., W.; Great Meadow, E.; John Curtis' home-lot, N.; John Whitmore's S. Sold to Wm. Butler on or before 4 May, 1641: d. at Stamford, 1675.

BECKLEY, BENJAMIN, (son of Richard) drew ld. in allotment of 1694: a petit. in 1712 for separate parish (Newington).

BECKLEY, JOHN, (son of Richard), pound-keeper, 1667: drew ld. as householder, 1670, and as ld. owner, 1694. His dau. Deborah, m. Sam. Spencer, of Htfd.

BECKLEY, NATHANIEL, (son of Richard) drew ld. in 1694 allot.

BECKLEY, Sgt. RICHARD, adm. inhab. 22 Feb., 1660: sent to Fairfield, 1665, to procure Rev. Wakeman to come to Weth. as preacher: was gr. 300 ac. of ld. in Oct., 1668, by the Gen. Ct. in that part of Weth. traversed by the Mattabesett river; in 1670 his title to this was confirmed by Gen. Ct.; with 10 addit. ac. near his house: was the first white sett. in S. W. part of Weth. now Beckley's Quarter (Berlin): claimed that he had already extinguished Ind. title to same, by purchase from Tarramuggus (son of Sowheage) the then chief of the Wongum Inds.: Beckley conceded the right of Weth., as the owner of the fee; and, as an equivalent for the Town's interest therein, gave up his right to share in the "Mile-in-Breadth" allotted to householders that yr. He came to Weth. from New Haven: prob. had two wives, the second a dau. of John Deming. Some claim that he m. a dau. of the Indian chief, Tarramuggus, but that is doubtful.

BECKLEY, RICHARD, (son of Sgt. Richard, the Settler), one of petit. for parish at W. Farms (Newington) 1712.

BELDEN, BENJAMIN, (son of John Jr. and Dorothy) b. 1687; licensed inn-keeper, 1714; collector 17—; called a "feltmaker" in 1711, in a deed of that date.

BELDEN, EZRA, res. Weth., 1733.

BELDEN, EBENEZER, (son of John and Lydia) b. 8 Jan., 1672: he and bro. John bo't. lds. of Wm. Clark, 1695, or earlier: part of this taken by the Town, for wh. they rec'd, in compensation, 1696, 20 ac. of ld. adj. thereto; Clark's ld. being that wh. he drew in allot. of 1694.

BELDEN, JOHN, (son of Wm. and Tamasina).—See *Genealogies*.

BELDEN, JOHN, (2d son of Richard?), m. Lydia ———, 24 Apl., 1657: bo't. the Nath'l Dickinson ho-std. E. side Broad St., 1669: sold it to Lieut Wm. Warner, the same day: bo't Sam. Boardman's ld. in the South Field, near the Mill, 1673. Dec., 1662, Sam'l Edsall of New Amsterdam (New York) gave him a due-bill for £14 payable in "trading cloth" at 9s. pr. yd., and "Osenbridge" (Osnaburg) at 20d. pr. yd.; to be paid by the last of the following April, "if Benfield [prob. a trader, or captain of a trading ship] comes to the Manatons" (Manhattans). In 1673, he bo't six pieces of meadow, swamp and upland, of Will Gull: in 1673 he obt. lds. by exch. from John Betts and Sam. Boardman's wid., Mary: in 1667 he bo't Eleazer Kimberly's 18 ac. in the West Field (nr. present South Hill): was of the Committee on Town line, 1660: he drew ld. in allot. of 1670. I suppose

this to have been the John B. who was licensed as a tavern-keeper for Weth. in 1673: the two others of same name being then aged 23 and 15 respectively. He d. 1685? I don't think, as *Savage* does, that he rem. to Norwalk, 1672; he d. 1677, ae. 46 yrs.

BELDEN, JOHN, (son of John and Lydia) b. 12 June, 1658: may be the John who drew ld. in allot. of 1694.

BELDEN, Lieut. JONATHAN, (son of John and Lydia) b. 21 Jan., 1660: drew lds. in allot. of 1694.

BELDEN, Rev. JONATHAN, minister, at Bristol, Me., 1807.—See Johnston's *Hist. of Bristol and Bremen, Me.*, p. 392.

BELDEN, JOSEPH, (son of John and Lydia) b. 1663: drew ld. in 1694 allot.—See, also, *Ebenezer Belden*: appraiser of cattle, 1728.

BELDEN, (Belding) RICHARD, the Settler; rec. lds. 7 April, 1641; ho-std. on Broad St., N.; Matthew Mitchell S.; way into Meadow W.; ho-lot of Leslie Broadfield E.: gave ld. to son Samuel, abt. 1654; Town Herder, 1646; d. Aug., 1649 (?).

BELDEN, SAMUEL, one of Town's "Cow-keepers," 1648: (bro. of Wm?) bo't the Thurston Raynor tract of 33 æ. in Great West Field, on which was his ho.: sold it to John Riley in 1665: Leonard Dix N., and Benj. Crane's S.

BELDEN, SAMUEL, (son of Wm. and Tamasina) b. 20 July, 1647; bo't ho-lot of Joseph Dickinson, on E. side High St., prior to Dec. 21, 1659: supp. to be the Sam. B., who drew part of common ld. in 1694.

BELDEN, SAMUEL, (son of Sam. and Mary), b. 6 Apl., 1651. Was this the one who, 1715, signed petit. for formation of Great Swamp parish, which included Beckley's Quarter and other lds. in what is now Berlin?

BELDEN, SILAS, chosen hayward 1712.

BELL, FRANCIS, see *Genealogies*.

BENJAMIN, CALEB, was gr. by Town 80 ac. below Rich Treat's farm at Nayaug (So. Glastonbury) Nov. 1672; fence-viewer for Naubuc and Nayaug 1678.

BENJAMIN, MARY, widow of Samuel, (of Hartford?); res. in Weth., 1670, when she made her brother, Caleb trustee for her ch. Mary and Abigail; her husband Samuel d. in 1669 or '70.

BENTON, EDWARD, had charge of the "Town house," 1665; was given ld. to enlarge his ho-lot, by the Town, 1667; drew one of the 52 ac. lots, 1670: drew ld. in 1694 allotment.

BENTON, JOSEPH, (son of Andrew, of Hartford?) res. in New., 1726.

BENTON, SAMUEL, (son of Edward) owned lot in Beckley's Quarter, 1716: appraised cattle, 1724.



BESWICK, GEORGE, mort. personal estate to John Cherry, Aug. 1672; d. 1672(?).

BETTS, JOHN, bo't ho-std. of John Latimer (no date given) abt. 1645(?): 3 ac. with ho. and barn: Broad St. W; Plain, E.; Rich. Treat N.; John Robbins, S. His wife was Abigail Elderkin, from whom he obt. a divorce in 1662: bo't Josiah Willard's ho-lot in 1663: rec. it in 1673: bo't ld. of John Belden, 1673: was bro-in-law of Sam. Boardman.

BETTS, Sgt. JOHN, (son of John and Abigail) b. before 1648: rem. to Huntington, L. I., 1697.—See, also, *Boardman Gen.* p. 149.

BETTS, ROGER, rem. to Branford, where he res. 1646.

BIDWELL, JOSEPH, fence-viewer, 1687-8, for the E. side of the River.

BIGGS, THOMAS, (son of William?), drew lds. as a res. tax-payer, 1694.

BIGGS, WILLIAM, of Midd., owned lds. nr. S. line of town prior to 1681, the yr. of his death.

BISBEE, WILLIAM.—See *Bysbee*.

BISHOP, JOHN.—See *Col. Rec.*, I., 177

BISHOP, Wid. SARAH, had a home in Weth., 1679, when the Town gave her and her daughter, Sarah, a piece of ld. She was a dau. of Hugh Weller; but what her husband's Chr. name was, does not appear: was given 20 ac. ld. in 1688: drew ld. as res. ld. owner in 1694. Was her husband *John* Bishop?

BLACKLEACH, BENONI, bo't in 1663 the ho-std. of Sam. Smith, E. side of High St. betw. John Deming Jr.'s N., and Hugh Welles S.; sale "revoked" the same yr.

BLACKLEACH, ELIZABETH, wife of John, (Sen., ?) in 1661, bo't lds. at Northampton from Zachary Field, conditioned that, after her death, said lds. should go to her child'n, to-wit: John, Benoni, Solomon, Elizabeth, and Mary. Her husband had settled a jointure upon her in "Ould England."

BLACKLEACH, JOHN, bo't the John Hubbard ho-std. (*q. v.*) 1 May, 1662: drew one of the 52 ac. lots, 1670; in 1674 he bo't from Joseph Hurlburt, John Curtis, Joseph Hills, Josiah Churchill, Henry Buck, Rob't Francis, Thos. Standish and Joseph Jennings, their respective shares in the Five Mile purchase (now *Eastbury*). His wife was Elizabeth: he came from Boston abt. 1662; having been of Salem in 1634: he d. 23 Aug., 1683.

BLACKLEACH, JOHN, Jr., was res. at Htfd., 1667: soon after rem. to Weth., where he d. 9 Sept., 1703.—See *Savage*.

BLIN (Blinn) DELIVERANCE, (son of Peter?) bo't a slave named Job. of Stephen Willard, in 1725.

BLIN, BILLY.

BLIN, JONATHAN and wife, Abigail, bo't a ho-std. of Leonard Dix, 1742.

BLIN, PETER, chosen collector in 1692: drew ld. in allot. of 1694: fence-viewer 1708-9. See Vol. III., p. 35, *Goodwin's Mss. Abstracts*.

BLIN, WILLIAM, had the "improvement" of Madam Hannah Chester's mill (in So. part of Weth. later Adams' Mill) in 1715, when the Town gave him liberty to overflow Deming's Meadow, (now the Reservoir in Griswoldville). In 1707: he res. in the house formerly John Coltman's, on So. Hill.

BOARDMAN, DANIEL, b. 1658; ISAAC, b. 1642; JOHN, b. 1653; JONATHAN, b. 1660; (all sons of Samuel and Mary)—for rec. of their lds. see *Genealogies*.

BOARDMAN, JOSEPH, (son of Sam. and Mary) b. 1650.—See *Genealogies*.

BOARDMAN, JOSHUA, (s. David, s. Samuel, the Settler), bo't lds. in Pemaquid, Me., 1732.—See Johnston's *Hist. of Bristol and Bremen, Me.*, p. 473.

BOARDMAN, NATHANIEL, (son of Sam. and Mary), b. 12 April, 1663: drew ld. as res. ld-owner, 1694: rec'd from Capt. James Fitch, 20 Oct., 1682, lds. N. of Norwich.—See *Conn. Col. Rec.*, II., p. 16.

BOARDMAN, RICHARD, (s. Daniel, s. Samuel, the Settler), a signer, 1712, of the petit. for a new parish at West Farms (Newington): assessor, 1714.

BOARDMAN, SAMUEL the Settler, bo't of Leslie Bradfield, with barn and cellar before April 9, 1645. E. side Broad St.: Leonard Chester's ho-std. N.: Richard Parker's S.: also, had a ho. still earlier, apparently on the south side of Broad St., between Nathaniel Foote's S. and John Robbins' N. This he exch. with Henry Palmer for a ho. and lot on E. side of High St., betw. John Deming's N. and Hugh Welles' S. He, also, bo't the homestead of John Evans (or *Evance*) Gentleman, before March 5, 1646, E. by Broad St.: W. by Bell Lane: S. by Nath'l Dickinson: N. by John Edwards. This he sold Samuel Martin: he was gr. 30 ac. ld. "on the S. E. side of Rocky Hill" by the town of Weth., 2 Jan., 1649-50, this was near the Landing being the first land in that section, owned by an individual: he came prob. in 1642 from Ipswich, Mass.: the Indian Tarramuggus, in 1672, presented him 400 ac. ld. in what is now Eastbury Society, Glastonbury. In 1685, the Town, by vote, confirmed the title in this ld. to the heirs of Mr. Boardman: he seems to have been respected by the red men as much as by the whites. In 1674, the town gave him additional ld. at the rear of his home-lot in Fletcher's Lane. He, also, (date not given) bo't of Sam. Smith (Jr.?) the home-lot of 4 ac. next S. of the Rev. Henry Smith's homestead, and seems to have been formerly part of it; and to have been partly taken from Town ld. N. and W. of the Burying-ground.

BOARDMAN, SAMUEL, (son of Sam. and Mary) b. "about 28 Oct., 1648; m. Sarah, (dau. of Lieut. James) Steele; gr. 10 ac. ld. at Rocky Hill, W. side of Weth. road, next S. of Joseph Edward's lot, in 1672, on which he built his ho. He was often called "Clark" (Clerk) Boardman: part-owner, with Emanuel Buck and John and Joseph Riley of saw-mill ppy. at West Farms (Newington) in 1683: drew ld. in 1694, allot.: lister, 1702: had 20 ac. ld on E. side of the Great River.

BOARDMAN, THOMAS, (son of Isaac and Abiah) b. 1671.—See *Genealogy*.

BOARDMAN, TIMOTHY, impounded cattle in 1731: bo't lds. at Pemaquid.—See Johtnson's *Hist. Bremen and Bristol, Me.*, p. 173.

BOARDMAN, WILLIAM, sued John Stoddard, Dec., 1645.

BOLTWOOD, ROBERT.

BOSEY, (*Boosey*) JAMES, the Settler of 1635, rec. lds. 10 March, 1641: ho. barn and 3 ac. ld., bd. by Broad St., S. E.; Rose Lane, N. W.; ho-lot late of Sam. Hubbard, N. E.; that late of John Strickland, S. W.: he bo't Rob't Coe's ho-lot, before 11 May, 1644, which he sold to John Riley abt. 4 Feb., 1646: taxed on 37 ac., 1647; d. 22 June, 1649; will dated 21 June, 1649; was a joiner and wheelwright: left sons, Joseph and James, and daus., Mary, Hannah and Sarah; he d. July, 1650.

BOSEY, JAMES, (son of James and Alice) b. 1 Feb., 1645: owned the ho-std. on E. side Broad St.; 6 ac. betw. Thos. Coleman's N. and that once Mr. Finch's S.: this he beq. to his dau., Sarah, wife of Nath'l Stanley: another ho-std. of 6½ ac. W. side of Broad St. next N. of Rich. Treat's, he beq. to his daus. Mary, wife of Lieut. Samuel Steele and the said Sarah.

BOSEY, JOSEPH, (eldest son of James and Alice), inherited his father's ho-lot: sold lds. to John Latimer, before Apl. 7, 1652, his father being dead before that time: had a ho-lot on S. side of Plain Lane before 1649: he d. at Westchester, N. Y.: his wid., Esther, m. Jehu Burr of Fairfield.

BOSWELL, JAMES, bo't lds. of Rich'd Treat, Jr., 2 Oct., 1654: d. at Weth. 24 Dec., 1660; by will left lands to his "kinsman," Rich. Smith, Jr.; owned largely on E. side of the River.

BOWEN, DANIEL, m. Esther (dau. of Rev. Stephen) Mix: he bo't the Elisha Mix ho-std., W. side of High St., after dth. of said Elisha.

BOWMAN, NATHANIEL, (not to be confounded with Nath'l *Boardman*) (son of Nath'l of Watertown? Drew ■ 52 ac. lot as a ho-holder, 1670: rate maker, 1686; Selectman, 1681-8: drew lds. as a res. ld-owner, 1694: at that time had the title of "Mr.": his ho-std. was next N. of the Burying Ground; and a controversy between him and the Town, concerning the divisional line, was sett. in 1684: he was licensed as a tavern keeper in March, 1688, under the Andros gov't. His wife was Anne (dau. of John) Barnard of Watertown, Mass.

BRACEY, (*Brace*) JOHN (see *Savage*) (gd-son of William Bisby of London, Gent., was of Weth., 26 April, 1661, when he sold to Samuel and Phebe Martin (she being his mother—a dau. of said Bisby) his interest in the ho-std. occup. by the said Martins.

BRACEY, THOMAS, sold the interest which he, as gd-son of Wm. Bisby, of London, Gent., had in the ho-std. given by said Bisby, to trustees for Samuel and Phebe Martin, who were then occupying it. The date of the deed by Bracey does not appear, but was prob. abt. 26 Apl., 1661. Bracey describes himself as of Weth. In this deed the name is spelled Brassy and Brasy.—See Judd's *Hadley*.

BREWER, THOMAS, from Midd., voted "non-inhab." of Weth., 25 Dec., 1682: vote "cancelled" (same day?): fence-viewer, March, 1697: signed petition for new church on E. side River, 13 Feb., 1690-1.

BROADFIELD, LESLY (or *Leslie*?) sold his ho-lot, with cellar and barn on it, to Sam. Boardman before 9 Apl., 1645: on E. side Broad St., between Leonard Chester's, N. E., and Richard Parke, S. W. He res. in Weth. in 1640, or earlier; rem. to Totoket (Branford) 1644; his wid. m. Geo. Adams, of Branford.

BRATTLE, "Mr." THOMAS (of Boston) owner of several parcels of ld. in Weth. by purchase from Mr. Josiah Willard, in 1669; but we are not aware that he res. in Weth.

BRIGGS, WILLIAM, a tanner, adm. inhab. from Lyme, Ct., in Dec., 1681, he desiring to carry on his trade: (orig. from Boston, 1673?).

BRONSON, (*Brownson*), JOHN, drew ld. as res. ho-holder, 1670; as res. land-owner, 1694: prob. a son of John of Farmington, who was a Pequot soldier, from Hartford—was not his wife Mary Deming?

BRUNDISH, JOHN, from Watertown, prob. in 1635; d. 1637 or '39; estate invent. 27 Oct. 1639: left 5 children: had ho-std., 3 ac. S. by Hartford road; E. by Rob. Abbott; N. by Thos. Wright's High St. ho-std; W by Jacob Waterhouse's John Brundish (son of Abner?) was one of the principal proprs. of Mantasing Island and Poninges Neck in 1662. He left sons, John, Joseph, Joshua, ancestors of many respectable families now bearing the name in Westchester, Co., N. Y.—See Bolto's *Hist. of Westchester Co.* See also our account of *Weth. massacre*, Chapter I; and the *Brandegees* Genealogy in our Vol. II.

BRUNDISH, RACHEL, wid. of John, sold the ho-std to Clemont Chaplin before 1 May, 1641: the latter sold it to John Goodrich: she m. (2) Anthony Wilson, of Fairfield.—See *Brundish* or *Brandegees* Genealogy in Vol. II.

BUCK, DAVID, (s. of Emanuel) drew ld. in allot. of 1694: chosen surveyor, 1695: committee of the Town School, 1704.

BUCK, EMMANUEL, m. Mary Kirby, 17 April, 1658, for 2d wife: she dau. of John Kirby and d. 1711-2; his ho-std, bo't of Edward Scott, of Far., 12 March, 1659-60: house and 2 ac. ld. on Fort St., N.; Hartford Way, S.; John Goodrich, Thos. Wright, Wid. Gibbons and John Stoddard, E.; Rob't Francis and Tho. Standish, W.: was in Weth. before 1640: in 1661 the town gave him a triangular piece of 3 "roddees" bdd. W. N. by ld. of Hugh Willes:, in 1664-5 he bo't the Henry Palmer ho-std., 4½ ac. fronting N. E. and S. W. on the two roads to Hartford. In 1660 he and Michael Griswold bo't from Jehu & Esther Burr of Fairfield, 18 ac. of swamp and meadow, inher. from James Bosey. In 1669-70 he bo't of John Waddams a ho-lot of 3 ac. "on the W. side of the Towne," adjoining his own ho-lot, a triangular piece: 12 ac. ld. gr. to him on Rocky Hill, 1661: he drew ld. in allot. of 1670: in 1680 the Town gave him 20 (30?) ac. of ld. next to his own, at the saw-mill at West Farms (New.) in exch. for ½ ac. on N. side of his ho-lot, for a 2 rod highway: in 1683, the Town gave him and Samuel Boardman



and John and Joseph Riley, each 20 ac. ld. for saw-mill purposes, in what is now Newington.

BUCK, ENOCH, the Town gave him 2 ac. of ld. for a ho-std. in 1649: a triangular piece, W. by Leonard Dix's ho-lot; S. by Thos. Curtis; N. by highway to Hartford; E.; "comes to a point about 5th part in Curtis' fence": he was a signer, in 1712, of petit. for a separate parish at West Farms, (Newington).

BUCK, EZEKIEL, Sen., (gd-son of Emmanuel) b. 15 Jan'y, 1650; had  $\frac{1}{2}$  ac. ld. on W. side Rocky Hill, S. side of highway leading to top of hill in 1676: this was in exch. for ld. given by him for a highway on E. side of the same hill, from top of the hill down to the "Brooks": in 1679 his father gave him the 12 ac. at Rocky Hill, which the town had given his father in 1661: bdd. E. by the highway at the foot of the E. slope of Rocky Hill, and N. by the new highway over the same hill, and lay next N. of Joseph Edwards ld. He drew ld. in allot. of 1694: he was res. at West Farms (Newington) 1701-2 and his name stands first on the list of signers in 1712, for a separate parish there.

BUCK, EZEKIEL, (son of Ezekiel and Sarah Bronson), was one of the original sett. of Litchfield, Conn., 1720. Did he remove thence to Durham?—See Fowler's *Durham*.

BUCK, HENRY, m. Elizabeth (dau. of Josias) Churchill, 31 Oct., 1660: Town gr. him ld. for blacksmith shop in 1658: a lot on W. side High St., Common gr., 1661: was given the highway to the Cove, 1680: drew ld. as a res. ld-owner, 1694: bo't the Theophilus Sherman ho-std., on E. side High St. at N. end, 1675: took Thos. Goodfellow as an apprentice, 1631: (rem. to New Jersey?)

BUCK, ISAAC, (son of Jonathan?) owned a lot next N. of James Francis', in Beekley's Quarter, 1716, part of which was taken as a highway.

BUCK, JONATHAN, (son of Emmanuel and Sarah), b. 8 April, 1655: drew ld. in allot. of 1694: a signer for parish at West Farms, 1712: in 1715, signed petit. for the Great Swamp parish, which incl. Beekley's Quarter and further south and west (now in Berlin): one of the purchasers of Litchfield, Conn., but did not sett. there.

BUCK, Sgt. SAMUEL, (son of Henry and Elizabeth) b. 2 Feb., 1664: surveyor, 1693: drew ld. in 1694: allowed to run his fence to the "Great Rock" (E. of present Cove), in 1696: gr. ld. for shops (18 ft. sq.) next N. of Steven Chester's ware-house, by the River, 1698: lister, 1708: keeper of Keney's Ferry.

BUCK, STEVEN, a petit., 1712, for the West Farms parish. (Newington).

BUCKINGHAM, THOMAS, (Rev.) supplied the pulpit in Weth., 1663-4—See *Chapter VIII*.

BUCKLAND, THOMAS.

BUKER, Wid., was given, by the Town, "that little house which was built for Goodwife Powel," 13 Dec., 1714.

BUCKLEY, Rev. Colonel, and Doctor GERSHOM, (son of Rev. Peter of Concord, Mass.) b. 6 Dec., 1636 (acc. to *Chapman*) m. Sarah (dau. of President) Chauncey, of Harvard College, 26 Oct., 1659: grad. at H. C., 1655. In 1666, the Town of Weth. after considerable negotiation secured him as its pastor, and as such he remained until about 1677. After his resignation from the ministry he devoted himself mostly to the practice of medicine, and to public affairs. His enterprise and activities in many directions, make his name often to appear upon the *Land Recs.* of the Town.—See also, Chapter V. and VII., and *Bulkeley Genealogy* in our Second Volume.

The ld. gr. to Mr. B. at the time of his sett. (in addition to the Town's parsonage land upon which he resided and had the use of) according to a vote, dated 4 Dec., 1667, consisted of 120 ac. forming part of a sq. piece of "eleven score acres," of which Rev. Mr. Stone rec'd the remainder of 100 acres; and situated abt. the mouth of Divident Brooke, the Conn. River bdg. it on the E. and Midd. N. line in the S. This ld. had, in 1661, been gr. to Gov. Winthrop, on condition of his building a saw-mill thereon. The Gov. failed to fulfill the condition and his title accordingly lapsed, and 1668 he quit-claimed, to the Town apparently, all his title "to any ld. wood or timber below the falls of Divident Brooke, which are below the pathway leading to Midd." This quit-claim was ent. for rec. by Mr. B. in 1671.

In Feb., 1670, he had been gr. 20 ac. add. ld. next N. of the above piece; so that he now had 140 ac. all of which he rec. May, 1671, and it is described as being 178 rods long on the N. side, and 160 rods on the W. side, 102 on S. side, and meaning from the "market tree" 160 rods on the E. side, measure due N. from the tree marked *N. G.* In Feb., 1676, Mr. B. "wus minded to build a corne-mill at Divident" and asked leave to pond water for that purpose on the Town's common ld. which was gr. He built the mill very soon, for in Nov., 1678, the Town gave him 150 ac. add. ld. adj. his present ld. "by his mill," at the same time stipulating that a highway should be estab. "extending from the Midd. road abt. John Taylor's ho. along to Mr. B.'s mill; also, another 20 rod highway, at N. end of Josiah Gilbert's ld. to ext. from the first ment. road to River."

In Dec., 1681, Mr. Bulkeley bo't of Jeremiah Drummer, then or soon afterwards, of Boston, the ho-std., which the latter had bo't of John Betts, and which was orig. built and owned by John Rose, next S. of the home of Robert Seeley, perhaps in the first yr. of the sett. (being where the home of the Levi Warner heirs now is) on the E. side of Broad St. By deed of 21 Apl., 1712, Mr. Bulkeley gave this ho-std. to his s. Edward Bulkeley.

Mr. B. with Capt. John Chester, Sen., Capt. Thos. Willes and Nath'l Foote, was chosen by Weth., 1702, to "manedg" the matter of the ejectment of the Glast. occupants of the 5-mile extension (now Eastbury) and to recover said lds. for the "proprietors of 1673," and the heirs of deceased pprs.; and considering his then advanced age, he entered into the contest with great vigor.

He also, had a famous suit with Mr. John Hollister, of Weth., in 1684-85, as to the title of certain lds. at Naubuc, which resulted in official re-survey, by order of the Gen. Ct., of the lands in question, and which left him the victor in the legal contest.—See, also *Appendix VI.*

BUNCE, JONATHAN, called "Clerk" when chosen collector, 1705: he, or one of same name, adm. inhab. of Weth. from Htfd., Dec. 1707.

BUNCE, THOMAS, rec. ho-std. bo't of Mr. [John] Sherman, prior to 1643; bd. W. by High St.; N. by Mr. [John] Talcott; S. by Rich. Belden.

BUNCE, JEREMIAH, living in Weth., 1726, and owned cattle.

BURROWS (*Burroughs*) ROBERT, owned ho-std. in Weth. before 1640, on N. side Htfd. road, next E. of Rich. Mill's home-lot. He m. Mary (wid. of Sam.) Ireland: was taxed in Weth. in 1647.

BURROWS, Capt. PETER. See *Genealogies*.

BURNHAM, NATHANIEL, surveyor; the Town in 1713; bo't his instruments, and in 1716 he was chosen Town Clerk.

BURNHAM, (Rev.) WILLIAM, Jr., (son of William, of Weth.) b. ——— abt. 1684: res. in Farmington, 1709, on ld. in Great Swamp (on what is now Kensington parish—Berlin) where the Town had gr. him 50 ac.: became, 1712, first pastor of the Gt. Swamp parish, then including the S. E. part of the then Far. township. He grad. H. C., 1702: m. Hannah (dau. Capt. Samuel) Wolcott of Weth., 18 May., 1704: as early as 1707, steps were taken for formation of Gt. Swamp parish, with special view of having Mr. B. for pastor.

BURNHAM, WILLIAM, (son of Thomas, of Htfd.) constable, 1692, drew ld. in 1694 allot.

BUTLER, CHARLES, (son of Joseph and Mary), In 1741, bo't from his bros. Benj. and Joseph, both of Midd. 86 ac. ld. at Dividend, just S. of S. line of Weth.

BUTLER, JOSEPH, (son of Richard of Htfd.) m. abt. 1667, Mary (dau. Wm.) Goodrich: bo't ho-lot, with ho. etc., from Sam Wright, 24 March, 1670-1, at Ry-Hill, bd. W. by main road to Midd.; S. by Midd. line. Feb. 23, 1693-4, Weth. gr. him 6 ac. next to Midd. line, adj. ld. he had bo't of Wm. Biggs' heirs, conditioned that he build a house on it within 2 yrs; in 1697, the Town gave him "that piece lying on the N. side of that piece wh. the Town formerly gave," it ext. E. "from Midd. road to the brook" and N. to Mr. Gershom Bulkeley's lot, leaving space for a highway next to Bulkeley. This was in Dividend.

BUTLER, NATHANIEL, (bro. of Joseph), drew ld. as res. ho-holder, 1670: as res. ld-owner, 1694: bo't Sam. Hurlburt's interest in Eastbury (Five Mile) purchase, 1674.

BUTLER, RICHARD, his ho. in Weth. ment. 26 March, 1655, as being on E. side High St., (in the Common) and next N. of Geo. Wolcott's: drew ld. in 1694 allot.

BUTLER, SAMUEL, (son of Richard) of Hartford; chosen Town school master, 1668; drew ld. as res. ho-holder, 1670: selectman, 1689: drew lds. in 1694: his father gave him 27 ac. ld. in Little West Field (S. side of Jordan Lane) 1680; also 3 ac. E. side High St. Common, in 1682.

BUTLER, WILLIAM, bo't the Rob't Bates' ho-std., wh. he rec. 4 May, 1641; house and 6 ac. ld; N. (S?) by John Whitmore's ho-std.; E. by Great Meadow; S. (N?) by Thos. Curtis' ho-std.; W. by High St. Common.

BUTTOLPH, DAVID, (son of John, who rem. from Salem, Mass., to Weth., 1676?, rec. from his bro. John, of Salem, 1694, a deed of half interest in ho-stead and warehouse lately his father's, John Butteolph, dec'd.: the same yr, the town gr. him add. ld. two rods sq. near his house. He drew ld. in 1694 allot.

BUTTOLPH, GEORGE, (son of John) b. in Salem, Mass., 15 Oct., 1667; drew ld. as res. ld-owner in Weth., 1694.

BUTTOLPH, Lieut. JOHN, Sen. came from Salem, Mass., in 1676, or earlier; chosen constable, 1679; townsman (Selectman), 1686; bo't from John Coleman (who had rem. to Hatfield) his two ho-lots on S. side of road connecting Meeting House Square with Broad St., and fronting E. on Broad St.

BUTTOLPH, JOHN, (son of Lieut. John), rem. to Salem, Mass., where, as executor of his father's est. he, in 1693, conveyed to his bro., George, half the ho-std. wh. his father left, on N. W. cor. Broad and Short Sts., Weth.: sold another portion of same to Mr. Joseph Rowlandson.

BYSBIE, (sometimes Bisbee) WILLIAM, gentleman, of London, Eng., father of Phebe, wife of Sam. Martin of Weth., and trustee of her children. Mrs. Martin's first husband was ——— Bracey, by whom she had two sons, John and Thomas, both of Weth.

CAMP, JOHN, (son of John of Hartford), a signer to petit. of 1712, for new parish at W. Farms (Newington): was bro. to Hannah Camp, wife of Amasa Adams, of Weth.

CAMP, JOSEPH, bro. of foregoing—signed same petition.

CASE, RICHARD, chosen Town-crier, 22 March, 1666-7.

CARPENTER, JOHN, (?), for suit of Carpenter vs. Deming, June, 1648.—See *Conn. Col. Rec.*, I, p. 164: "Carpenter's Lane" was the road from "Egypt" to present res. of Frank Robbins, 1890.

CARRINGTON, JOHN, rec. his ho-lot (bo't of Sam. Martin) 8 March, 1647; it was orig. Ed. Vere's lot, bd. N. by highway; E. by a common; S. by a swamp; W. by a swamp, or common: 2½ ac.: sold to wid. of Leonard Chester: res. next W. of Robert Francis' on Sandy Lane. In 1652 Carrington sold ½ ac. of ld. with a "sellar" on it, to Sam. Martin prior to 3 Aug., 1643, showing him to have been a very early settler. In 1649, the Town gave him a home lot of 30 rods. See Chapter XVII under head of *Witchcraft*.

CATLIN, (sometimes *Cattelin* and *Cattling*) JOHN, supp. son of Thomas of Htfd., and m. Mary Marshall, 23 Sept., 1662, but *Savage* says that this John was of Htfd. and m. Mary Marshall, 27 July, 1665, which makes it appear that John of Weth. was a bro. of Thomas of Htfd. He prob. went to Newark, N. J., but some of his descs. remained in Weth.—See *Candee Geneal*, also Vol. II, our *Genealogies*.

CATLIN, THOMAS, of Htfd., 1666, when Hugh Welles mort. his ho-std. to him.

CATTEL, JOHN, (same as *Catlin* and *Cattelin*).—See *Conn. Col. Rec.*, I, 457.



CHAPLIN, CLEMENT, "Ruling Elder to the Church of Christ in Weth.;" treasurer of the Colony, 1642-3. Came to Weth. from Hartford in 1640, or earlier; rec. his homestead 28 April, 1641;  $5\frac{1}{4}$  ac. ld. with a ho. and barn on it; bd. N. by ld. of John Thompson; E. by the corner of the "green or common" [by the meeting house] in part, partly by Rose Lane; S. by ld. [of the Town] reserved for home-lots; W. by lds. "not given." May 1, 1641, he rec. another ho-std. which he had bo't of wid., Rachel Brundish. He had 1200 ac. of ld. at Naubuc (Gastonbury, now) which his wid. in 1661, sold to Henry Wolcott of Windsor. She also, then being a res. of Roxbury, Mass., 24 Sept., 1660, sold the ho-std., first above described, to Henry Wolcott, who bo't it for his son, Henry. The latter's gd-son, Samuel, Jr., sold part of the place, in 1752, to Joseph Webb, who built there the now famous "Webb House" in wh. Washington and some of the American and French generals were entertained in 1781. The Silas Deane ho. next adj. on the South stands on part of the Wolcott homestead. Deane bo't of Elizabeth Wolcott, sister of Samuel, Jr., and built the Deane house. When Webb built he demolished the Wolcott house. Wolcott also bo't 30 ac. in Great Meadow; six score ac. in the West Field, next S. of the "Town ld.;" 18 ac. in the Dry Swamp, bd. by highway W. and Conn. Riv. E., Chester's ld. N., and Thurston Raynor's S.; 5 ac. in Beaver Meadow; 18 ac. in Wet (Fearful) Swamp; all from Chaplin's est. Chaplin sold many pieces including the Brundish ho-std. to John Goodrich, Sen., which the latter did not record until 1672.

CHAPPELL, GEORGE (Sen?), had ho. and 4 ac. ld. before 26 April, 1641; in the angle formed by the junct. of River St. and Sandy Lane.

CHAPPELL, GEORGE, (Jr.) called in the records, the "R" George, son of [George?] and Margaret, b. 17, March, 1653.

CHAPPELL, GEORGE, a cooper's apprentice in 1637, or thereabouts; apparently not related to either of the other George Chappells; a dissolute man of little account.

CHERRY, JOHN, drew ld. as a res. ho-holder in the 1670 allot.; was in Weth., 1673, and had a blacksmith shop; in January, 1672, sold his ld. next to Far. line, to Sgt. John Stedman; in 1673 had an apprentice named Tho. Good-fellow.

CHESTER, Capt. JOHN, (old. ch. of Leonard and Mary), b. 3 Aug., 1635—whether at Weth. or Watertown seems to be uncertain, tho' his father certainly was in Weth. at time of his birth. He m. Sarah (dau. Gov. Thomas) Welles, Feb., 1654; was gr. ld. for a ware-house at the river landing, (now S. E. bank of the Cove), 23 Feb., 1670. In 1671, the town gave him 3 ac. ld. adj. his mill-lot on the W., which he released to the Town in 1683. The Town gr. him a lot 160 rods long, to contain 3 score ac. next S. of the "Long Lot", in 1680. The Long Lot had belonged to his father. He bo't the grist-mill (wh. his father had built and owned, in 1637) with 20 ac. of ld. of John Stoddard, in 1662. The latter had bo't it of the wid. of Leonard Chester. He bo't the Francis Willoughby homestead on the West side of Broad St. in 1669, Willoughby then living in Charlestown, Mass. He had a lot on the E. side of the way to the Mill and out of it was taken, in part, the highway running E. from the Mill to Midd. road. John Coulman's being S. and Sam. Boardman's E. of Chester's lot.

CHESTER, Maj. JOHN, (son of John and Sarah Welles), b. 10 June, 1656; m. Hannah (dau. Mr. Samuel) Talcott, 25 Nov., 1686; rate maker, 1687; recorder (Town-Clerk) 1695.

CHESTER, LEONARD, with his wife, Mary (Neville?), came from Blaby, Leicestershire, Eng., to Watertown, Mass., 1636. He was the son of John and Dorothy (Hooker) Chester, his mother being a sister of the famous Rev. Thomas Hooker. Chester, being about 24 yrs. of age, left Watertown for Weth., in the fall of 1634, or spring of 1635; his wife, as *Bond* and *Savage* suppose, remaining in Watertown until after the birth of their first child, John, in Aug., 1635. *This birth is found rec. in Weth.* He rec. his ho-std., 25 June, 1641; described as a tract of 3½ ac. with a ho., two barns and other bldgs. thereon; bd. N. W. by Broad St.; S. E. by Matthew Mitchell's ho-std.; N. E. by Tho. Coleman's; S. W. by Leslie Bradfield's. It was where the ho., now (1893) occup. by W. H. Skaats, stands. He had large tracts on both sides of the River, being one of the great ld-owners; he built the first grist-mill in Weth. and perhaps in the Colony, in 1637, as appears in his will of that date, which differs from his will of 1648, wh. latter is the only one ever published. In 1646, he bo't the Edward Scott ho-std. next S. of Nathaniel Dickinson; in 1647 he owned 53 ac. in the Plain, being the largest ppr. in it.

CHESTER, STEPHEN, (son of Leonard and Mary) b. 3 March, 1639; in 1671 was gr. by the Town ld. for a site of a ware-house, next to the piece previously given by the Town to his bro., John, on what was then the bank of the River, but now the S. E. shore of the Cove; he drew ld. in the 1694 allot.; in 1697, the Town voted him 20 ac. of woodland. He d., according to Goodwin, at Hartford, 23 Apl., 1705, unmarried.

CHESTER, STEPHEN, (son of John and Sarah), b. 26 May, 1660; m. Jemima, (dau. Lieut. James) Treat, 17 Dec., 1691; he drew ld. in the allot. of 1694; he d. 9 Feb., 1698; his wid. survived him many yrs., dying, 5 Oct., 1755.

CHESTER, THOMAS, (son of John and Sarah), b. 23 March, 1662; m. Mary (dau. Richard) Treat, 10 Dec., 1684; chosen hayward, 1685; drew ld. in 1694 allot.

CHURCHILL, BENJAMIN, (son of Josiah and Elizabeth), b. 16 May, 1652; m. Mary — 8 July, 1676; collector, 1680; drew ld. in 1694 allot.; lieut. 1702; and on committee to lay out highways, etc.; seems to have succeeded to his father's ho-std.; he was a surveyor and "Clerk."

CHURCHILL, JOSEPH, (son of Josiah and Elizabeth), b. 2 Dec., 1649; m. Mary 16 May, 1674; chosen surveyor, 1679; constable, 1689; drew ld. in 1694 allot.

CHURCHILL, JOSIAH, the Settler, was in Weth. prior to 1638, when he m. Elizabeth (dau. of Nathaniel) Foote; rec. his ho-std., 28 April, 1641, house and 6 ac. ld. bd. by High St. W.; Great Meadow E.; road into Gt. Mead. S.; ho-lot of John Jessup, N.; sold it to Henry Hayward (or Howard) 1659, or earlier; then bo't the Chas. Taintor ho-std, for which see *Taintor*; d. Jan., 1686; drew ld. in West Division, 1670.

CHURCHILL, NATHANIEL, (son of Joseph and Mary) b. 1697; was a signer of the petition of 1712 for a separate parish at W. Farm, now New. From him prob. are descended all the New. and Berlin Churchills.

CLARKE, (sometimes "Clarcke") JOHN, the Settler; came to Weth. from Watertown, prob. in 1635; sold his ho-std. to John Robbins, "Gentleman," Oct., 1638, at which time he went to Quinnipiac (New Haven); it consisted of a ho., barn and 3 ac. of ld.; bd. N. W. by Broad St.; S. E. by "Adventurer's" ld. [plain] of Robert Rose; S. W. by ho-lot of Wm. Palmer; N. E. by Rob't Rose. Also, 20 ac. of "Adventure ld."; rem. from New Haven to Saybrook, 1649; was one of the most influential men in Colony; and one of the 19 grantees named in the Col. Charter of 1662.

CLARK, SAMUEL, had a home-lot on W. side of High St., next S. of Rich'd Westcott's, prior to 1640; and lds. in Little West Field prior to 1641; excepting of his removal to Stamford, prob. abt. 1640, nothing further is known of him.—See *Savage*.

CLARK, WILLIAM, may have been the William of Dorchester, of whom *Savage* finds no trace, after 1664. A piece of ld., for a ho. to be built on, was gr. him by the town in (W. T. V. I., 153), to be "near Goodman [Thomas?] Hurlburt's coal-kiln," which grant John Belden complained of, 1686, as an injury to him; bd. N. E., N. W., and S. W. by the highway,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ac.; he drew ld. in 1694 allot.; in 1696 his lot is said to adjoin that of Benj. Adams; the wid., Mary Smith, is called his mother-in-law, in deed of 6 June, 1694.

COE, ROBERT, a Settler of 1635; his ho-std., a ho. and 3 ac. ld. was bd. S. E. by Broad St.; N. W. by Rose Lane; N. E. by Matthew Mitchell's ho-lot; S. W., by Fletcher Lane; rem. to Stamford, 1640, and sold his place to James Boosey.

COLE, HENRY.—See *Savage*.

COLE, JAMES, of Hartford, bo't Lieut John Hollister's land at Pennywise, next S. of Htfd. bds., in 1645; but it does not appear that he ever res. in Weth.

COLE, LYDIA, wid. of Samuel, Sen. drew ld. in allot. of 1694; was still living at Rocky Hill, 1726.

COLE, SAMUEL, son of Henry and Sarah (Rusco?); b. 10 Sept., 1656; *Savage* makes his parents at Midd. in 1646, but this could hardly be, since Mattabesett's settlement was not begun till 1649-50. Had a ho-lot at Rocky Hill, 1683, where the Town gave him  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ac. add'l; d. before 1694, as appears, leaving wid. Lydia, and children, Samuel, Joseph and, perhaps, others.

COLE, SAMUEL, son of Samuel and Lydia (?) res. at Ry-Hill, where his father lived before him; hayward 1701; fence-viewer, 1702.

COLEMAN, JOHN, (son of Thomas?) had a ho-lot in 1659, on the E. side of High St. next S. of Joseph Dickinson's; he drew ld. in 1694 allot.; collector, 1700; fence-viewer, 1713; rem. to Hatfield, 1659 or 1660.

COLEMAN, Lieut. JOHN, (son of John of Hatfield and gd-son of Thomas, the Weth. settler), b. 1669; drew ld. in allot. of 1694; collector in 1700; fence-viewer, 1713.

COLEMAN, NOAH, (son of Thomas, the Settler) drew ld. in Indian Purchase, 1673; on the Committee to run the S. line of the town, 8 April, 1661.

COLEMAN, THOMAS, first of the name in Weth., perhaps came in 1639; was townsman (selectman) 1646-7; rec. his ho-std., Mch., 1647, a ho., barn and 3 ac. ld. on Broad St., W.; the Plain E.; Leonard Chester's ho.lot S.; that of Abraham Finch, Sen., N. This, ac. to recs. he sold to Thos. Welles, 2d, his son-in-law, and to John Coultman, the school master. In 1656 he bo't from Rich. Treat, Jr., the ho-std. formerly of Thurston Raynor and Sam. Hubbard's, respectively. In 1656, townsman again; rem. to Hadley, 1660; d. 1674, leaving sons, John and Noah and three dau.'s; one of whom, Sarah, m. Rich. Treat, of Weth. abt. 1661. His second wife was wid. Frances Welles, by whom he had a dau., Deborah in 1663, he bo't 48 ac. from Sam. Smith, lying in the West Field, wh. was not rec. till 1675, after his de-  
cease.—See Judd's *Hadley*.

COLFAX, a JONATHAN whom we can not exactly place, owned ld. in the Great Swamp, about, or in 1643. He may have been a brother of William, the settler.

COLFAX, (sometimes *Colefax*, *Colefex*, etc) WILLIAM, a carpenter; rec. his Weth. ho-std. bo't of Jacob Waterhouse, June 8, 1647; ho. and 3 ac. ld; bd. High St. W.; Great Meadow, E.; ho-lot of Wm. Cross, S.; Josiah Churchill, N.; sold this to Rich. Montague abt. 20 Feb., 1659; Henry Hayward (or Howard) then bdg. him S.; he bo't another ho-std. of Sam. Wyllys, 15 Nov., 1659, ho., barn and 3 ac. ld.; the highway (Bell lane?) E.; Sam. Wyllys, S.; Abraham Elsen, N.; est. div. to children, Feb., 1661-2.

COLLINS, SAMUEL, first of the name in Weth? (son of Samuel of Midd?) b. 21 Oct., 1668; sett. in Rocky Hill; in 1712 on a school-site committee.

COLT, ABRAHAM,

COLTMAN, (*Coultman*) JOHN, from Newton Harcoate, Weston parish, Co. Leicester, Eng., first rec. ho-std. 26 March, 1647, bo't of Tho. Coleman, a ho., barn and 3 ac. ld. bd. by Broad St., W.; the Plain, E.; Thomas Coleman's ho-lot, S.; that formerly of Abraham Finch, N.; in 1653, the town gave him ½ ac. ld. taken from upper end of Broad St., bd. N. S. and W. by the st., on condition that he build a ho. thereon, and live on it seven years, "he being so changeable, ever sence he was his owne man"; also, 6 ac. of meadow and swamp; he was the Town schoolmaster in 1667 and for some yrs. thereafter; in 1648, he, with Nath'l Dickinson bo't the Chester mill, the town helping them therein to the extent of £15; they continued to hold it till abt. 1660, or earlier when John Stoddard became the owner of Dickinson's share; in 1667, he bo't the Francis Yates' ho-lot by the Meeting-house; in 1668, the Town gr. him ld. 12 ac. near the mill, adjoining the mill-way S.; in 1663, he gave to Will. Taylor the ld. wh. the Town had given him out of Broad St.; he bo't it back in 1668; in 1669, he conveys to his wife his interest in the mill; and the next day bo't a third int. for John Chester who had bo't of Stoddard; in 1674 the Town gr. him 12 ac. ld. (laid out in 1682?). Coultman had been a "servant" (i. e. in the employ) of Leonard Chester. He m. Mary ———

COMSTOCK, SAMUEL,—See *Savage*.

COMSTOCK, WILLIAM, bo't a ho-std. of Rich. Mills, wh. he rec., 28 April, 1641, 2 ac. ld. with "a barne with two cellars and other bldings" bd. N. and



S. by highway (Fort St. and Sandy Lane); E. by hom-lots of Jeffrey Ferris and Sam. Ireland; in 1642, he bo't 1 ac. from Ferris, next adj.; sold the whole to Andrew Langdon in 1643; rem. to New Lond. abt. 1650 .

COTTON, Rev. JOHN, (son of Rev. John of Boston, who was, acc. to Savage, the most distinguished divine of this country, in that age); invited to Weth., 1659; consented to supply the pulpit until end of May, 1660; Town app. Sam. Martin to "goe downe to the Bay" and attend Mr. Cotton, whilst he is bringing up his things, "upon his owne horse," 25 May, 1660; Town provides a house for him, 1660; question of his settlement still discussed, 1661; hired for another year, Feb., 1661; again in 1662, and June, 1663. His services at Weth. ended with this yr, and he had never been "settled" there. He m. Joanna (dau. of Dr. Bray) Rossiter of Windsor, 7 Nov., 1660.

COUCH, THOMAS, m. Rebecca ———, 22 Nov., 1666; she d. 1 March, 1671-2. He was Town crier 1665-6; drew ld. in 1670 allot.; bo't 1665, from John Styles, the ho.-lot which the latter had rec'd from Henry Palmer in 1664; in same yr. bo't the ho.-std. of Sigismund Ritchell, E. side of Broad St., in 1669, obt. by exch. with John Riley, Sen., the latter's ho.-std. of 33 ac. nxt. N. of Benj. Crane's, on what is now Mud Lane. He sold to Daniel Rose, 12 March, 1665-6, a ho.-std. next N. of Emanuel Buck's, on S. W. side of road to Htfd.

COUCH, THOMAS, (son of the preceding?) petit. the town, Dec., 1718, for a piece of ld. 42 rods long and 20 rods wide "near the brook called Two-Stone," bd. N. by lds. of Mr. Wm. Warner and the other side by the common. The town gr. it; in his petit. said he had "not one rod of ld. of his own to set his foot upon."

CRABBE, RICHARD, came to Weth. prob. in 1635 or '36; his ho.-std. was a ho. and 6½ ac. ld. bd. by Hight St., W.; the Great Meadow, E.; ho.-lots of Edward Sherman, S.; and John Deming, N.; (bo't by John Talcott for his son Samuel?); rem. to Stamford, 1640.

CRAFTS, MOSES, chosen hayward 1684 and '86; drew ld. in 1694 allot.; surveyor, 1700; *Branford Town Rec.*, under date of Oct., 1883, ment. him as "formerly of New Haven, now of Weth. yeoman."

CRANE, BENJAMIN, *Savage* says he was first from Medfield; that he m. 12 Sept., 1656, Elinor Breck of Dorchester, Mass., then rem. to Weth. But *Weth. Recs.* estab. the fact that he m. Mary Backus, 23 Apl., 1655; that 24 Feb., 1656, the Town gave him a ho.-lot of 2½ ac. bd. by the Common, N. W.; a brook and John Graves' ho.-lot, N. E.; the Common S. W.; the highway S. W. He also bo't John Dickinson's ld. in the West Field, soon after the latter's rem. to Hadley, 1659-60. This last (where the ho. of late Sam'l Coleman, dec'd stands) was in Mud Lane, and was where he built his ho. and tanneries. The ho. was one of the six fortified in 1704, by order of the Town. The Town gr. him 3 ac. ld. next Beaver (now Tando's) Brook, 1663; he drew ld. in 1670 allot.; bo't ld. of Rob't Rose 1670; was given more ld. nxt. S. of Job Whitcomb's, 1680; wid. d. 1 Apl. 1661.

CRANE, BENJAMIN, (s. Benj. and Mary) b. 1 Mch., 1651; rate maker, 1685; drowned 1693; bo't fm. Daniel Rose the Philip Goffe lot of 4 ac. S. side of Goffe's Brook, in 1671, bd. by highway W.

CRANE, ISRAEL, (s. Benj. and Mary) drew ld. in 1694; collector, 1700; d. 1708, leaving 4 ch'n of wh. Jona Belding was guard; owned the Northernmost ld. on Wright's Island.

CRANE, JACOB, (s. Benj. and Mary) drew ld. in 1694; d. 1718.

CRANE, JOHN, (s. Benj. and Mary) b. 21 Apl., 1663, drew ld. in 1694; wid. Abigail m. Sam. Walker, 1696 or 1697.—*Col. Rec.*, IV., 202.

CRANE, JOSEPH, (s. Benj. and Mary) b. 1 Apl., 1661; hayward, 1683; was given 10 ac. ld. at Rocky H. on W. side Midd. Rd. nxt. S. Henry Buck's lot, 1685; surveyor, 1693; drew ld. in 1694; took up cattle, 1703.

CRANE, Wid. MARTHA, dr. ld. 1694: [she was Martha Boardman, 2d wife of Benjamin, Jr.; after his dth. m. 1697-8, Samuel Terry of Enfield, and d. 1743 in 77 yr.—H. R. S.]

(Much addit. information concerning the ld. transactions of these Cranes, will be found in the *Crane Genealogy*, pub. by Ellery B. Crane).—H. R. S.

CRISPE, ZACHARIAH, (s. Benj. and Bridget, of Watertown, Mass.) res. in Weth. 1666, as appears by a due-bill to him, from Wm. Giles of Htfd.

CROSS, WILLIAM, prob. same Wm. whom Hinman says res. at Htfd. and of Fairfield, 1645; bo't ho-std. of Thos. Whitway, rec. 18 Apl., 1644; a ho. and 2 ac. ld. bd. by High St. W.; the Great Meadow, E.; Rich. Treat, N.; Wm. Colfax, S.; d. Fairfield, 1655.

CROWFOOT, JOSEPH, was gr. 20 ac. on N. side rd. leading fm. N. end of Josiah Gilbert's lot, at Dividend, to Conn. River, 26 Mch., 1697; was a tythingman at Weth. as early as 1694; dr. ld. in 1694; taxes abated 1717.

CURTIS, ISAAC, (s. Thomas and Elizabeth) b. 1647; taxed to pay for Ind. Purchase, 1673.

CURTIS, JAMES, (s. Thos. and Elis'th) b. 1641; town gave him, 1685,  $\frac{3}{4}$  rods add. to width of his ho-lot; was constable, 1686.

CURTIS, JOHN, (bro. of Thos. the Settler) had a home lot before 1640, E. side of High St., opp. the Common and nxt. N. of ho-lot of Robert Bates; he was prob. one of Stratford's early sett. prior to 1652. He m. Elizabeth (dau. of John, eld. s. of Gov. Thos.) Welles, abt. 1647. *Savage* seems not to have known that he was ever in Weth.; he was b. 1611, d. 1707, æ. 96. Their dau. Elizabeth m. (1) abt. 1647, John Welles of Stratford, s. of Gov. Thos. Welles; she m. (2) 1662-3, John Wilcoxson of St. Goodwin's, *Geneal. Notes*, 251. See Cothren's *Woodbury, Ct.*, II., pp. 1486-88.

CURTIS, JOHN, (s. of Thos. & Elizabeth) b. 1 Jan., 1639, drew ld. in 1670 allot.; ~~was~~ gr. ld. by the River's side, next his ho-lot, and ext. to the bank above the Rocks, by the Town, 1671; this ho-lot was that given him by his father in 1670, being on the E. side of High St., at its extreme N. end; was chosen surveyor, 1684; drew ld. in 1694 allot.; in 1673, sold his ho-std. to Theophilus Sherman and bo't the latter's ho-lot in Pennywise, the same

yr. In 1680 his father gave him 18 ac. ld. on S. side of road now Jordan Lane.

CURTIS, JOHN, (s. of John and gd-s. of Thos., the Settler) dr. ld. in 1694, allot.

CURTIS, JONATHAN, prob. res. in Ry-H. section, of which he was chosen surveyor, 1713.

CURTIS, JOSEPH, (s. of Thos. and Elizabeth) b. 31 Mch., 1644; bo't 22 ac. in the West Fields from Sam'l Williams, 1679; sold 10 acs. to Sam'l Butler, 1683.

CURTIS, SAMUEL, (s. of Thos. and Elizabeth) b. 1 Apl., 1645; surveyor 1677; shared, with his bro. James, the ho-std.; hayward, 1708; bo't of Isaac Stiles his share in the Mile-in-Breadth, in 1673; and of Steph. Chester his, in 1678; his father gave him 3 acs. ld. with ho. on it, off from the N. side of the ho-std. in 1674; wife was Sarah ———; he d. 1689 (?), or, at least admn. was gr. on his est. in Feb. that yr. by the (Andros) Court of Special Sessions. His wid. drew lds. in 1694 allot.

CURTIS, THOMAS, the Settler, prob. came to Weth. in 1636; his ho-std. was a ho. with 6 acs. ld. bd. by the High St. Common, W.; the Meadow lds. of John Whitmore and John Livermore E.; the highway next the River (now The Cove) N.; ho-lot of Richard Butler S. The Town gave him addit. ld. adjoining Rich. Butler's in 1656. Sold his lds. on E. side the River to Thos. Wickham, 1662; bo't John Blackleach's ld. on S. side Jordan Lane, 1671. He had a piece of  $\frac{1}{4}$  ac. at extreme N. end of Common, bd. N. and E. by way to the Landing Pt.; W. by Thos. Wickham's; S. by Mr. John Blackleach's ho-lot; rem. to Wallingford, concerning which see *Savage*.

DEMING, BENJAMIN, (s. Jonathan, Sen. and Elizabeth *Gilbert*) b. 20 July, 1684; chosen hayward, 1704; res. Step. parish, where, in 1712, he was of a comm. to bld. a schoolhouse; he contested the right of his bro. Jonathan's wid. to occ. their father's ld. at Ry.H. in 1727.

DEMING, DAVID, (s. of John, the Settler),—See *Savage*.

DEMING, EBENEZER, (s. of John the Settler) some of his ld. in West Field taken for a highway, 1684, for which the Town gave him 50 acs. ld. "in the woods"; drew ld. in 1694 allot.

DEMING, EPHRAIM, (s. of Ebenezer) a signer of the 1712 petit. for separate parish at W. Farms—now Newington.

DEMING, JOHN, the Settler, came to Weth. fm. Watertown(?) 1635; fm. 1659-61, often a memb. of Gen. Ct.; was one of the grantees named in the Charter of 1662; rec. his ho-std. in 1641, a ho., barn and 5 acs. ld. bd. by High St., W.; the Great Mea., E.; Thos. Standish's ho-std. (later, ppy. of Fred Butler's heirs) N.; Rich. Crabb's ho-std. S.; he also bo't Rich. Belden's ho-std., E. side High St. bo't Robt. Burrough's ho-std. in 1645, or earlier, (in the fork of Sandy Lane and what is now Prison St.); he gave the Belden ppy. to his s. John, in 1659-60; m. Honor (dau. Rich.) Treat; he was a townsman (selectman) 1647-8 and later, the Town added to his ho-std.

next to Standish's cor. 1670; he drew ld. in the allot. of that yr. *Goodwin* says he d. 1705.

DEMING, JOHN, Sgt., (s. of John, the Settler) b. 9 Sept., 1638; dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; the Town gave him, 1674, ten acs. ld. at Ry-H. bd. N. E. by highway leading to Gt. River; ld. of Joseph Smith's heirs, S. E.; on sd. Smith's ld., E. and S.; highway to Midd., N. W.; the Common W.; m. Mary (dau. Joseph) Mygatt of Htfd.

DEMING, JOHN, (s. Ebenezer) b. 1679; was with Ephraim, a signer of the 1712 petit. for separate parish at West Farms (New.); called "deac." 1729, then res. in N.

DEMING, JONATHAN, Sgt. (s. of John, the Settler) b. 1639; was gr. ld. at upper end of Broad St., from the street, in 1662; dr. ld. in allot. of 1670. His ho-lot, taken from Broad St. was  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acs. bd. by highway to Jas. Wakeley's ho. S. E.; highway to Thos. Coleman's pasture, N. E.; rd. Coleman's pasture, E.; highway, N. W. Town gr. him 10 acs. ld. "betw. Joseph Smith's fence and Midd. way," 1672; this was in Ry-H.; in 1672 he bo't from Daniel Rose 15 acs. ld. at Ry-H. on the cor. where James Warner's ho. stood (1883) Amos William being next N.; in 1682, he bo't fm. Ezekiel Buck, 8 acs. ld. at Ry-H. bd. E. and W. by said Buck, S. by Joseph Edwards dec'd; N. by highway; his s. Jonathan had this last piece in 1685 when the Town gr. him 15 or 16 acs. to be added to the W. or near end of sd. Buck's, Edward's and Sam'l Boardman's lots; to abt. W. on the Common; S. on undivided ld. (of the Town); N. by highway; to have its rear to be in a straight line with rear of other lots. He dr. ld. in 1694 allot. In 1696, the Town gave him 15 acs. at the S. end of Deming's Plain (Ry-H.); he d. 8 Jany., 1699-1700.

DEMING, JONATHAN, (s. Jonathan) res. Ry-H. 1685 on the ld. which his father bo't of Ezek. Buck; dr. ld. in 1694 allot.

DEMING, JONATHAN, "the Blacksmith"; fence-viewer, 1692; dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; house ord. to be fortified, Feb., 1703-4.

DEMING, SAMUEL, dr. ld. in 1694 allot.

DEMING, THOMAS, (bro. of John, the Settler?).—See *Genealogy*.

DENTON, Rev. RICHARD, came from Wat. to Weth., 1638? (See Chapter II.); rec'd his ho-std. 24 Apl., 1641; a ho., 2 acs. and 20 rds. of ld. bd. by Rose Lane, S. E.; "lds. ungiven", N. W.; John Robbins, N. E.; a piece "not laid out" S. W.; From this description it may be inferred that he had taken up this ld. perhaps 2 yrs. earlier.

DEVOTION, Mr. JOHN, (s. of Edward of Roxbury?) licensed by the Town, 7 Dec., 1713, "to keep an house of entertainment." See *Savage*.

DEWOLFE, BALTHAZER, was in Weth. as early as Sept., 1656, when Matt. Price of Charleston, Mass., constituted him his atty. to collect debts due to him from persons in Conn. or New Haven jurisdiction; the Town voted him an "inhab." 30 Jan., 1663; he went to Lyme, Ct. says *Savage*, in 1668. (See *Salisbury's Family Histories*.) In Price's power of atty. the name is spelt *Beltesaer*.



DICKINSON, DANIEL, convey ld. to his "sister," Mehitable Frary, of Deerfield, Mass., in 1749; he was bro. of Noadiah.

DICKINSON, EBENEZER, (s. of Samuel?) b. 1681; hayward, 1703; fence-viewer, 1713; he may have been s. of Thos. and b. abt. 1679; in Dec., 1713, he, with Eliphalet Dickinson, and Joshua Robbins, Jr., was a petit. for leave to erect a saw-mill on the stream betw. Deming's Plain and Tree Plain.

DICKINSON, ELIPHALET, (s. of Sgt. Obadiah, by 1st wife) b. abt. 1675; hayward, 1697; was, with Wm. Blinn, lessee of "Madam Chester's Mill (grist-mill) in 1715, when the Town gr. him leave to flood Deming's Meadow, now known as the Reservoir;" appraised cattle, 1719; conv. ld. to his sister Mehitable Frary of Deerfield, Mass., 1749.

DICKINSON, JOHN, (s. of Nath'l and Anna) b. Eng.; m. 1648, Frances (dau. Nath'l) Foote; rec. his ho-std. 1650; a ho. and 4 acs. ld; bd. by Broad St., E.; Swamp and River (now Tando's Brook); W.; Nath'l Dickinson, N.; Swamp and Common, S.; rem. to Hadley, 1659; at Weth. was surveyor of highways, 1658; one of comm. to run S. line of Weth. 1659; gave ld. to Henry Buck and wife, 1660-1; sold 12 acs. in South Field to Sam'l Boardman, 1673; sold his ho-std. S. W. side of Broad St., 1673 to John Riley.

DICKINSON, JOHN, (s. of John and Frances) dr. ld. as a resident ho-holder in 1694 allot.

DICKINSON, JOSEPH, (s. of Nath'l and Anna) b. Eng.; m. Phebe Bracey (now spelled Brace) dau. Sam'l Martin, and gd-dau. Wm. Bisby of Lond., Eng., Gent. His ho-std. in Weth. was on E. side High St. betw. James Boosey's ld. N. and John Coleman's S.; this he sold to Sam. Belden in 1659, when he rem. to Hadley. He ret. to Weth. where, in Dec. 1661, he rec. a ho-std. in Broad St. which he had bo't of John Graves in Feb. previous, Graves having rem. to Hadley in 1659. Dickinson rem. to Northfield, Mass., where he was killed by Inds., 4 Sept., 1675. He had sold his Weth. ho-std. to Sigismond Richells.

DICKINSON, NATHANIEL, the Settler, came to Weth. prob. 1636, perhaps not till 1637; bro't with him his sons John, Thomas and Joseph, all b. in Eng.; his other ch. were b. in Weth. He was Town Clerk, or "Register," in 1645, perhaps earlier, being the recorder of the earliest Town Votes of Weth. now extant; deputy to Gen. Ct. 1646-56; townsman, 1647-8; rec. his ho-std. 7 Mch., 1649, house, barn and 3 acs. ld. bd. by Broad St., E.; Bell Lane, W.; ho-lot formerly of Thos. Tapping, N.; John Dickinson, S.; he also owned, for a short time, the John Fletcher ho-std. (being all N. of where the Broad St. schoolhouse now is) which he sold to Sam. Boardman.

DICKINSON, NATHANIEL, (s. Nath'l the Settler) m. 1662; his father gave him a ho-std., being a ho., barn and 3 acs. ld. on W. side of Broad St. next N. of John's ho-std., Sam'l Martin's being next N. of Nath'l's; he also bo't a piece from rear of his bro. John's ld. and sold the whole to John Belden, 1 Apl., 1661, he having rem. to Hatfield.

DICKINSON, OBADIAH, (s. Sgt. Obadiah by 1st wife Sarah) dr. ld. in 1694 allot.

DIX, LEONARD, (s. of wid. Deborah, of Wat.) came to Weth. prior to 1645; two ho-lots were given him by the Town—one next to John Wadhams (Wad-dams) betw. Sandy Lane and Back Lane, as they are now called, this he sold to Matthias Treat. The other lot, given him 1660, of 3 acs. bd. by Beaver (now Tando's) Brook, W.; a highway (Back Lane), E.; Michael Griswold's ld. N.; Benj. Crane's, S. He drew lds. in 1670 and 1694 allots.; was constable in 1672; surveyor of highways, 1684; in 1694 he bo't fm. Lieut. James Treat, the ho-std. on S. W. cor. of Midd. road and the way leading W. therefrom to the Chester grist-mill,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acs.; bo't a strip 2 rods wide in West Field, near adjoining his ho-std., being 6 acs., in 1674.

DIX, LEONARD, (s. John?) bo't of Jonath. Blin and his wife Abigail (prob. sister of sd. Leonard) in Aug., 1740, their interest in a ho-std. which adjoined ld. of John Dix, prob. his bro.

DIX, SAMUEL, (s. Leonard, the Settler) his ho. was on the S. W. cor. formed by the intersection of road to Ry-H., with the road running W. to the grist-mill in S. part of Weth. The N. line of Step. parish formerly inclu. his ho-std. and stopped at his N. line; he drew ld. in 1694 allot.

DOTY, DANIEL, owned lot in Pennywise, in 1640-41, next S. of Thos. Whitway's. This is all I find concerning him.

DURAND, (*Durrant?*) JOHN, dr. ld. as a res. householder, in 1694. Could he have been the J. D. of Scituate, Mass., in 1657, and of whom *Savage* loses sight thereafter?

EDWARDS, JOHN, the Settler, came from Wat. prob. in 1635 or '36; m. as 2d. wife, Dorothy (wid. of Abraham) Finch; rec. his ho-std., 26 Apl., 1641, a house, barn and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  acs. bd. by Broad St., S. E.; Bell Lane, N. W.; ho-std. of Sam'l Smith, N. E.; that of John Evans, Gentleman, S. W.; sold to John Latimer, 1654?; d. 1664, or earlier, and his wid. in 1667, m. Richard Tousley of Saybrook; he was townsman in 1648-9; he bo't the ho-std. of Abr. Finch, 12 Dec. 1651; owned ld. on both sides the River; on the E. side he bo't Abr. Finch's ld., also James Richards' lot, 7 rods wide; also another lot of the same R. 10 rods wide and had another tract there of  $49\frac{1}{2}$  acs. [John Edwards *may* have come from Charlestown, Mass., as we find in *Lechford's Note Book* (p. 316) *Am. Antiq. Soc. Transactions*, Vol. VII, that one Harman Gannett of C. covenanted with John Edwards, of same place, "blacksmith, to instruct him in the art of a *gunsmith*," etc.—*H. R. S.*]

EDWARDS, *Cap't* JOHN, (s. of John, the Settler) b. 1638; in 1664 bo't ld. of John Graves, 42 acs. on E. side the River; sold it to James Richards; dr. ld. in 1670 allot.; d. 19 Dec., 1675, from wds. rec'd in the "Swamp Fight."

EDWARDS, JOHN, (s. Joseph?), fence-viewer, Dec., 1704; tythingman, Dec., 1713; 5 Sept., 1700, he sold to James Treat his ho-std. on E. side Broad St., next S. of the James Boosey ho-std.

EDWARDS, JOSEPH, (s. John the Settler), was one of earliest sett. in Step. parish; the Town of Weth. gave him in Feb., 1665, a tract of 20 acs. bd. by Midd. road E.; ld. "not div." W.; Emanuel Buck's ld. N.; Sam'l Boardman's S.;

also, from the Town, Nov., 1672 he rec'd another tract of 2 acs.; in 1680, from the Town, 12 acs. add. at Ry-H., next to the house formerly John Taylor's.

EDWARDS, THOMAS, (s. of John, the Settler) had, from his dec'd father's est. in 1664-5, all his father's ld. on the E. side the River, being 2 pieces—one of 49½ acs., the other (formerly Abrm. Finch's) three score acs. more or less. In 1667 he bo't James Richard's tract on that side, 7 rods wide and 3 miles long, next N. of the first. By exch. with the sd. Richards, he also obtained another tract 10 rods wide and same length. In 1668 he was one of the comm. to secure contributions towards Rev. Mr. Stone's salary. In 1672, the Town gave him 80 acs. of ld. (sold to Nath'l Bowman, in 1674) at Nayaug, now So. Glast. He was, at this time, a tenant of Sam'l Wylls, to whom in 1671, he mort., as security for rent, his wheat, barley, Ind. corn and oats. The house was in that part of Weth. which was then, as it still is, called Hockanum, where Edwards had been living since 1649-50. In a deed, dated 4 Jan., 1670-1, giving 58 acs. of ld. at Naubuck, to his dau. Ruth and his s-in-law, Sam'l Hale, Jr., he is called a "yeoman." On Feb. 10, 1672-3 Turramuggus, Sachem, with other Inds., together signed a deed, in confirmation of one they had given the 23d Jany., previous, to Sam'l Boardman and Thos. Edwards, of 400 acs. of ld. on S. side of Roaring Brook at Amanantucksuck (So. Glast.) On the "last of Apl.," 1673 Turramuggus (whose name is this time spelled "Cattermuggas"), executed another writing, in which, for the purpose of defining the boundaries of this tract, he "pitched the first corner stone by the Brooke, and diged 2 hooles; and from them measured W. S. W. 42 chains, which is half a mile and 8 rodts, and S. S. W. on each side nine score and fourteen rodts." In Mch., 1674, Edwards sold to John Goodrich, Sen., 200 acs. here.

In the orig. deed, signed by Turramuggus alone, he describes this tract as "lying neere or in Assawasick [now Wassuc], Paguanaug, or Mannantuck." This will be recognized as being in the So. section of present town of East-bury.

To Thomas Edwards belongs the distinction (unless poss. it belongs to Sam'l Gardner) of being the *first* settler in that part of Weth., E. of the River. It was in the section known as Hockanum, and in the So. or Weth. part of it. He was res. there as early as Jany., 1649-50, prob. as the tenant of Geo. Wylls' who had bo't the ld. of Strickland and others, at the extreme N. end of the E. section of the Town.

ELLIS, WILLIAM.—See *Allis*.

ELSEN, (sometimes *Alsen*, and perhaps same as *Olsen*) ABRAHAM, rec. his ho-std. in 1640, had prob. owned it several yrs. earlier. It was first John Miller's, then Edward Vere's, from whom E. bo't it. It was on W. side of Bell Lane, 2½ acs. betw. ho-std. of Thos. Hurlbut N. and one of those owned by the wid. of Geo. Wylls, S. He bo't John Plumb's ho. and lot (see *Plumb*) as early as 27 — 1642; d. May, 1648. In a rec. of 1660 the name is spelled Abram *Elesen*.

ELSEN, JOHN, (s. of Abraham) rec. his ho-std. in 164[7?], a ho., barn and 3 acs. ld. W. side Rose Lane, and E. side New St. (discontinued, 1660), betw. Luke Hitchcock's ho-std. S., and Rich. Smith's, N. In Mch., 1647-8, he was indebted to the Town for a tax laid on acc. of meadow-fence; m. wid. of Benj. Hilliard; he d. 1648?—See *Savage* as to dth.

EVANS, JOHN, "Gentleman," rec. ho-std. in Weth. 1640, but had rem. to Quillipiack (New Haven) abt. 2 yrs. before, where his name sometimes appears as *Evanse*. A ho. and 3 acs. ld. W. side Broad St., and ext. thro. to Bell Lane, bd. N. by John Edwards' ho-std. and S. by Nath'l Dickinson's. Sold to Sam'l Boardman, 25 Mch., 1646. He was one of the very earliest sett. at W. and had lds. in Great Meadow and on The Island; became one of the most prominent men in New Haven. *Savage* thinks he may have been at Htfd. 1678.

FERGUSON, THOMAS, (erroneously written *Farbush*) dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; supp. to have settled in Beckley's Quarter, now included in Berlin, and has descdts. thereabouts.

FERRIS, JEFFRY, rec. ho-std. 26 Apl., 1641, ho. and 4 acs. ld. bd. N. by Fort St., S. by the ho. late of Sam'l Ireland, dec'd, E. by Jacob Waterhouse's ho-std., W. by ld. formerly of Geo. Chappell; 1 ac. of this sold to Wm. Comstock in 1641; the rest to John Deming, 1645. He came fm. Wat. to Weth. prob. 1635; rem. to Stamford, 1640, where he became a prominent citizen.

FINCH, ABRAHAM, came fm. Wat. to Weth. prob. 1634; his ho-std. was on E. side of Broad St., next S. of a ho-std. of Thos. Olcott, of Htfd.; and was afterward owned by Daniel Finch, s. of Abraham and Ab'm, s. of Ab'm, Jr., and gd-s. of Ab'm, Sen. Mr. F. was an aged man and commonly called "Old Finch," when he came to Weth. In Sept., 1630, his "wigwam" and all his goods, at Wat. were destroyed by fire, says *Winthrop*.

FINCH, ABRAHAM, (gd-s. of "Old Finch," Abraham, the Settler), rec. his ho'd 21 Apl., 1641, a ho. and 13 acs. ld. 10 of which was his father's "Adventure," on E. side Broad St., betw. ho-lot lately Dan. Finch's, S., and Thos. Olcott's, N. In Feb., 1661-2 he was the importer of 2 hogsheds and a tierce of sugar from the Barbadoes, which he had landed at New Haven.

FINCH, DANIEL, (s. of Abraham, the Settler) had a ho-lot on E. side of Broad St. before Apl., 1641, next S. that of his bro., Ab'm, Jr.; was the Weth. constable in 1631, and the *first* officer of that kind in the Colony, so far as recs. show.

FINCH, JOHN, (bro. of Daniel?) I find no evidence that this man ever res. in Weth., excepting the fact that he was one of the pioneers of Stamford which was a Weth. Colony; and *Daniel* Finch certainly rem. thither. But *Bond* and *Savage* cr. him to Weth. He was gr. ld. in Stamford, Oct., 1642, and d. there, 1657.—See Huntington (*Hist. Stamford*, p. 32).

FLETCHER, JOHN, from Wat. (1635?); ho'd rec. 16 Mch., 1640; a ho., shop and 2¾ acs. ld. W. side Broad St., and thro' to Bell Lane, betw. ho'ds of Thos. Kilbourn's wid. S. and Fletcher Lane N.; sold to Nath'l Dickinson; m. dau. of wid. Joyce Ward, before 1640.

FLOOD, (*Floud*) ROBERT, was given by the Town, 4 acs. ld. W. side Ry-H., next S. of John Slead's [Slade] in 1677; in Mch., 1679, he was given 2 acs. more, at W. end of Wm. Mackey and Wm. Warner's lots "by the highway leading fro. the South Field to the mill," conditioned that he build a ho. upon it, within two yrs. thereafter, for his wife and children. He, at this time, re-



leased to the Town his Ry-H. lds.; the Town gave him 2 acs. more in 1680, adj'g rear of first 2 acs. It was further enlarged, 1683, by the extension of the same, 4 rods westerly, and the same distance S.—See *Savage*.

FOOTE, NATHANIEL, the Settler, from Wat., 1635, or perhaps, late in 1634; his ho'd was a ho. and out bldgs. and 10 acs. ld. S. E. side Broad St., and lying betw. Carpenter's Lane S. W., and Jeremiah Jagger's ho'd, whose ho-lot lay S. E. of it, Carpenter's Lane S. W., Wm. Palmer's ho-lot and Robert Rose's "Adventure ld.," N. E. This was where the ho'd, some yrs. occup. by Levi Warner, stands. Mr. Foote was the richest ld-owner in Weth. in his day, especially in ld. W. of the River. His wife, whom he bro't fm. Eng. was Elizabeth, sister of Henry Deming, of Weth., and after Foote's dth, she became the second wife of Gov. Thos. Welles. Foote was a dep. to the Gen. Ct., 1641-4. The best account of him and of many of his distinguished desc'ts, will be found in Nath'l Goodwin's *Genealogy of the Foote Family*.

FOOTE, NATHANIEL, (s. of Nath'l, the Settler) b. abt. 1620; bo't from his step-father, Gov. Thos. Welles, 10 Oct., 1646, the interest which sd. Welles had in the ho'd of the lately dec'd Nath'l Foote, Sen., Mch. 27, 1650; he rec. his ho'd, 2 lots, one of 2 acs. bd. on Broad St., W., and ho-lot of Rob't Foote, E., lds. of Sam'l Boardman, N., and of sd. Rob't, S. The other piece, of 9 acs., bd. by the Plain, N. and highway and lot of John Latimer, S., Robert Foote, W. and Plain, E.; he m. Elizabeth (dau. Lieut. Sam'l) Smith.

FOOTE, *Quarter Master* NATHANIEL, (s. of Nathaniel, Jr., & Elizabeth) b. 1647-8; rem. to Hatfield when a yg. man, and there m. 1673, Margaret (dau. Nath'l) Bliss, of Springfield, where he sett., thence rem. to Stratford; thence to Branford; thence back to Weth., where he was pound-keeper 1683; constable 1688; in Feb., 1693-4, the Town released to him all its interest in the "Island lying nigh Pennywise"—this was a tract on both sides the dividing line betw. Htfd. and Weth. abt.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acs. on each side, and which once belonged to his gd-fthr.; he dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; d. 1703; wid. and younger ch. rem. to Colebrook; he was a quarter-master in the King Phillip's War.

FOOTE, ROBERT (or "*Robin*") s. of Nath'l the Settler) b. Eng. abt. 1629; bo't of Sam'l Gardner, 26 Dec., 1648 or earlier, a ho-lot of 3 acs. bd. by Plain Lane, S.; by the Plain, N.; lds. of his bro., Nath'l, E. and W.; June 12, 1655, he sold to his step-father, Gov. Thos. Welles, the Joseph Boosey ho'd on E. side Broad St., next N. of Abr. Finch's; rem. to New Haven; thence to Branford, 1681. In 1667, sold to Eleazur ———, a ho-lot of 2 acs. on W. side Broad St. betw. John Coleman's N. and James Boosey's S.

FOX, CHRISTOPHER, "Boatswayne of the Shipp at Weathersfield," prob. d. in Dec., 1650, as his books and instruments were inventoried on the 15th of that mo. He d. at Saddler's ordinary.

FOX, RICHARD, fence-viewer for Naubuck, Dec., 1686; dr. ld. in the Inds. Purchase, 1673.

FRANCIS, JOHN, (s. of Robert, the Settler) b. 1658; dr. lds. in 1694 allot.; collector 1702.

FRANCIS, JOHN, (s. John); hayward, 1704; licensed tavern keeper, Mch. 1707—(may have been John, Sen.)

FRANCIS, RICHARD, rec. an earmark for his cattle, abt. 1650.

FRANCIS, ROBERT, the Settler, bo't of John Latimer, a ho'd, which he rec. 29 Mch., 1652, a ho. and 3½ acs. ld. bd. S. by highway (Sandy Lane),; N. by ho-lot of Thos. Standish; E. by ld. of [Hugh?] Welles; W. by ho-lot of John Carrington. The Town gave him swamp ld. in 1656 and 3 acs. more next Beaver Brook in 1660; he dr. lds in 1670 and 1694 allots. In 1693, Peter Disborough, of Rye, was ill of small pox in R. F's ho. and R. F's dau., Sarah, lived for a time at Sgt. John Stedman's, in what is now Jordan Lane.

FRESHALL, DAVID, res. Weth. 12 Nov., 1672, where he bo't of Will. Morris, the latter's lot of 52 acs. next to Far. lds., which he sold to Rev. Gershom Bulkeley, in 1674.

FURBUSH, THOMAS.—See *Ferguson*.

GAGER, JEREMIAH.—See *Jagger*, the correct spelling.

GARDNER, BENJAMIN, adm. inhab. 27 Dec., 1686; Dec. 24, 1694, the Town gave him 20 acs. ld. N. side of what is now Jordan Lane, and next W. of Sgt. John Stedman's ho'd; it ext. N. to Htfd. bds.

GARDNER, SAMUEL, ho-lot given him by the Church and Town, 1 Mch., 1647-8, 4 acs. ld. bd. by New St. (discontinued in 1660) W., and the way to Htfd.. E., ho-lot of Thos. Hurlbut, N., and lot given to Walter Hoyt, S.; sold to John Latimer, 1646 or '47. Another ho-lot, on N. side of what is now Plain Lane, he sold to Robt. Foote in 1648; he was in Weth. early as 1641, and may have been the first res. on the E. side of the River, in that part of Weth. known as Hoccanum. The priority belongs to him or to Thomas Edwards, both res. there 1648 or '49.—See also Judd's *Hadley*.

GARRETT, JOSEPH, bo't in May, 1705, the interest of Stephen Chester, dec'd, in the warehouse and ld. of the latter, by the Cove. In the deed, J. G. is described as "of Weth."

GIBBONS, WILLIAM, a wealthy mcht. of Htfd. owned considerable ld. in Weth. abt. 1640. On E. side the River he bo't, 1644, the Rich. Belden lot (formerly John Deming's) for Geo. Wyllys.—*Private Controversies* I., Sec'y State's Office.

GIBBS, GREGORY, (s. of Giles, of Dorchester?) abt. 1645 he bo't several tracts of ld. of Thos. Parke, (rem. to New Lond.) which soon after, he sold to John Graves.

GIBBS, JOHN, prob. came from Cambridge, Mass., 1638; rec. his ho'd in Weth., 24 Mch., 1640, a ho., barn and 4 acs. ld., bd. High St., W.; the Great Mead., E., ho-ld. of Rev. John Sherman, N., that of John Reynolds, S. Sold it to Lieut. John Hollister in 1645, or earlier; had before this rem. to New Haven.

GILBERT, BENJAMIN, (s. of Josiah) dr. lds. in 1694 allot.; repaired Goffe's Bridge, 1698.

GILBERT, JONATHAN, (the Marshall, of Htfd.) was app. guardian of ch. of Catharine Harrison (tried for witchcraft in) 1673; and of her (wid. of John) he bo't lds. in 1672.

GILBERT, JOSIAH, (bro. of John of Htfd.) ; bo't 20 acs. ld. of Mr. Josiah Willard in the So. Field, Dec., 1668; bo't 140 acs. ld. of Gershom Bulkeley, at Dividend, in June, 1671.

GILLETTE, JOHN, adm. inhab., March, 1697.

GOFFE, MOSES, (s. of Philip and Rebecca) b. 1656, became the owner of his father's ho-std., then lately dec'd, 1687. It was on N. E. cor. of Midd. road and the upper road to what is now Ry-H. mead.; fence-viewer, 1693; dr. ld. in 1694 allot.

GOFFE, PHILIP, the Settler, may have been in Weth. as early as 1646; rec. his ho'd 30 June, 1655; a ho. and  $28\frac{3}{4}$  acs. ld. bo't of Luke Hitchcock, bd. by Midd. road W.; ld. of Robert Rose, E.; ld. of John Tinker, N.; way into what is now Ry-H. mead. but formerly the old road to Ry-H., S. It was the tract which gave the name to Goffe's Brook. He also had a "timber-yard" there; was Town-crier, 1651; dr. ld. in 1670 allot.; in 1667 he bo't the John Tinker ld. adj. him on N.; in 1671, he bo't fm. John Coltman, Nath'l Butler and Nath'l Bowman, their respective 52 ac. lots, next to Far. bds.

GOODFELLOW, THOMAS. In May, 1674, he bo't of Thos. Kirkham, Jr. his interest, then undivided, in the Five-Mile Extension (now Eastbury).

GOODRICH, BENJAMIN, rec. ear marks for his cattle, 1716.

GOODRICH, DAVID, (s. William, the Settler) b. 1667; constable, 1690; dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; Sgt. and selectman, 1700; Capt. and selectman, 1713; Lieut. Colonel, etc.

GOODRICH, EPHRAIM, fence-viewer for E. side River, 1688; one of petit. for a new meeting-ho. E. side River, Feb., 1690-1.

GOODRICH, JOHN, (s. William, the Settler), dr. ld. in 1694 allot.

GOODRICH, JOHN, the Settler, fm. Wat. (1635?) bro. of Wm., the Settler; rec. his ld., 16 Mch., 1644. O. S.; a ho. and 3 acs. ld., bd. by road to Htfd., S.; Thos. Wright's ld. on High St., N.; ho-lot of Rob't Abbott, E.; John Plumb, W. This was the John Brundish ho'd, sold to Clement Chaplin, who sold it to Goodrich. In 1669 he bo't the ho-lot of Thos. Kirkham ["Kircum"], which the latter had rec'd by grant fm. the Town the same yr. It was next N. of Daniel Rose's, on S. W. side of what is now Sandy Lane, Back Lane bdg. it W. Abt. the same time, he bo't Rob't Rose's ho'd, Emmanuel Buck adj. next S. In 1673, he bo't 200 acs. fm. Thos. Edwards, on the E. side the River, in what is now Eastbury—entitled "husbandman" in a deed; was on Comm. to secure a minister, 1664; dr. ld. in 1670 allot.

- GOODRICH, JOHN, (s. of John, the Settler) b. 1647; hayward, 1676; fence-viewer, 1692; selectman, 1704. In 1672, his father gave him a ho-lot of 2 acs. at upper end of Sandy Lane, extending to Back Lane; and in same yr. John, Jr., bo't fm. John Hale, a triangular piece of 80 rods, next S. of Thos. Standish's ho-lot, at N. end of Sandy Lane; d. 1676.
- GOODRICH, JONATHAN, (s. of John, the Settler) dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; in 1710, rec'd a grant of ld. in Weth. (formerly ld. of John Goodrich, Jr.), fm. his—Jona's—sister, Mary Read, of Sudbury, Mass. In a deed of 1703, releasing his interest in ancestral lds. in Hedgeset, Eng., he is called a "taylor."
- GOODRICH, ENS. WILLIAM, the Settler, (bro. of John, the Settler) came to Weth. fm. Wat. prob. 1635; rec. his lds. 3 Jan., 1646, ho'd, a ho., barn and 6 acs. ld. bo't of Thos. Ufford, bd., by highway, (Main St.) E.; and Common, W.; ho-lot of John Nott, N.; that of John Westell, S. Two acs. of this was formerly the W. end of John Thomson's ho-lot, which was bd. by the ho'd of Clement Chaplin. He also bo't Ufford's ld. on E. side the River, 117 acs.; he dr. ld. in 1670 allot.
- GRAHAM (or "*Grimes*" on Margin of rec.) HEZEKIAH, was a grantee of ld. fm. Daniel Clark, of Midd., Meh., 1742.
- GRAVES, ISAAC, a carpenter—"keyed-down" the Bridge (Goffe's), 1648.—See Judd's *Hadley*.
- GRAVES, JOHN, exch. ld. with John Goodrich, abt. 1645; bo't John Coultman's lot (date not given); also ld. of Gregory Gibbs (no date); on a comm. to run line betw. Weth. and Mattabesett, 1655, again in 1659; killed by Inds., 19 Sept., 1677, Hatfield, Mass.
- GRAVES, NATHANIEL, (s. John?) dr. ld. in 1670 allot.; had ho. and 4 acs. ld. E. side Broad St. betw. John Robbin's N. and Nath'l Foote's S. This he bo't 1659. John Betts gave him 23 acs. ld. in West Field, 1662; Graves, in 1671 bo't fm. wid. of John Latimer the 20 acs. lot next N. In the deed gift, Betts calls Graves his brother.
- GREEN, JOSEPH, (s. Samuel, of Cambridge) res. in Weth. Jan., 1671-2, when Sam'l Martin mort. to him and his bro., Samuel, a tract of ld. in the West Field. But he d. in Boston abt. Apl., 1673, as appears from a release of sd. mort., signed by Theophilus Frary, Admr.
- GREEN, SAMUEL, (bro. of Joseph, preceding) res. Weth. Jan., 1671-2, when Sam'l Martin mort. to him and to his bro., Joseph, his ld. in the West Field. The mort. deed given Weth. as the res. of the grantees.
- GREENLEAFE, "Mr." JOSEPH. The Town voted, Aug. 28, 1685, that he "might be entertained in the Town, without molestation, till May next; and longer, if the Town shall afterwards upon their good liking, see cause." In the following Feb. he was "warned" by the selectmen, "to depart the town, with his family, betw. this time and May next."
- GREENSMITH, NATHANIEL, had ld. in the Great Mead. abt. 1651; but prob. res. in Htfd.



GRIMES, HEZEKIAH.—(See *Graham*.)

GRIMES, JOSEPH, first of name in Weth., dr. ld. in 1694 allot., res. Ry-H., 1705.

GRISWOLD, JACOB, (s. Michael and Ann) b. 1660; collector, 1693; dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; surveyor of highways, 1698.

GRISWOLD, JACOB, (s. Thomas and Mary) b. 5 Feb., 1675; collector, 1715; he, or the Jacob Griswold, Jr., was the Capt. Jacob G., who is called the first settler of Litchfield, and a redoubtable Ind. fighter.

GRISWOLD, JOHN, was living at the West Farm (New.) in 1712, when ld. adj. him "on the Common betw. the two west divisions" was selected as the site for the proposed new meeting-ho.; surveyor of highways, 1714.

GRISWOLD, MICHAEL, the Settler, and ancestor of the Weth. Griswolds; res. Weth., 1647, or earlier; had ho'd, a ho. and 2 acs. ld. bd. on New St. (now discontinued) E., and highway (now Back Lane) W., Watering Lane (now Back Lane) S., and ld. of Thos. Hanchett, or Hansett, N. It was on, or near the site of the ho. lately of the heirs of Simeon Griswold, now, of the heirs of Harvey Hurlbut. He was a mason by trade, a "yeoman" as to rank, and the owner of considerable ld; constable, 1663; comm. on obtaining a minister, 1665; drew ld. in 1670 allot. Apparently a kinsman of Emmanuel Buck, certainly associated with him in some enterprises.

GRISWOLD, Ens. MICHAEL, (s. of Michael and Ann) b. 1666; dr. ld. in 1694 allot.

GRISWOLD, THOMAS, (s. of Michael and Ann) b. 1646; dr. ld. in 1694. allot.

GRISWOLD, THOMAS, (s. of Thos. and Mary) b. 1675. [A cattle-earmark was rec. for Thomas Griswold "Junior" in 1673. I know not what Griswold this could have been—perhaps it was a mistake.] Thomas G. Jr., one of orig. sett. of Litchfield, 1720, was either this man, or else (which is more prob.) the s. of Thos. and Mary.

GILDERSLEVE, RICHARD, rec. his ho'd 10 Mch., 1640, a ho. and 3 acs. ld. bd. by High St., E.; John Plumb's lot, W.; Wm. Swayne's lot, E., George Hubbard, N. Sold it to John Talcott, Gent., of Htfd., who exch. with Charles Tanitor. *Savage* says he was one of the first sett. of Stamford, 1641, and a rep. from there, 1643, "but he had been 5 yrs. at Weth. before going to S." It is not known fm. whence he came to the Conn. Colony; in 1663 was of Hempstead, L. I.

GULL, WILLIAM. A Town-herder, 1648; sold his first ho'd to Rich. Montague on or before 22 Mch., 1650. It was the ppy. earlier owned by Wm. Cross, bd. W. by High St., E. by Great Mead., N. by Geo. Wolcott's lot, S. by that of Wm. Colfax; he was cow-keeper, 1655; hayward, 1660, and perhaps in 1669; constable, 1662; sold his last ho'd, on E. side Broad St. to John Belden, 1669. In 1672, being then a res. of Hatfield, Mass., he bo't seven pieces of ld. fm. Daniel Rose, apparently intending to ret. to Weth.

HALE, BENEZER, (s. Samuel and Mary) b. 29 July, 1661. It is possible that this name should be *Hall*. and not Hale. The names Benezer and Ebenezer *Hale*, Benezer and Ebenezer *Hall* are mixed in the most confused manner.

HALE, EBENEZER, (s. Samuel?) fence-viewer, 1686; (perhaps the same S. who dr. ld. in 1694 allot. and was school-comm., 1704—should have had his name rec. as Ebenezer, instead of Benezzer Hale. But there *was* a Benezzer Hale, or Hall, in Weth. at this time); his father gave him 96 acs. ld. on each side of the River, in 1673; fence-viewer at Nabuc, 1686; signed agreement for new church there, Feb., 1691.

HALE, JOHN, (s. Samuel and Mary) b. 1646; dr. ld. in 1673 allot; bo't Sam'l Smith's 15 acs. in the West Field, in 1675; signed agreement for new ch. on E. side River, Feb., 1691.

HALE, SAMUEL, the Settler, fm. Roxbury, Mass. (sometimes written Haile, Heall, etc.) was in Weth. as early as 1637, when, with his bro., Thomas, he served in the Peq. campaign; he bo't Francis Norton's ho'd in 1640, or thereabouts; it being a ho., barn and 3 acs. ld. bd. by Rose Lane (now Main St.), S. E.; the "lane" next the lots given to Sam'l Boardman and John Riley, N. W.; a lane leading into the wilderness, S., ld. of sd. Hale, N. Next N. of this was another piece of 2 acs., which the Church had given him, which was bd. by Rev. Rich. Denton's lot. Those two tracts were sold by Hale to Thos. Wright in 1654; then described as one piece of 5 acs. bd. E. by Bell Lane; W. by New St., N. by lds. of Luke Hitchcock; S. by a lane leading to Michael Griswold's (now Back Lane).

The Town gave him 4 acs. of swamp ld., 1653; in 1661, he bo't of Sam'l Smith 240 acs. on E. side the River; in 1665, he bo't of Gregory Wilterton the latter's ho'd, next S. of Joseph Wright's, on the E. side of High St.; in 1667 the Town obtained this by exch. for the lot next S. for a parsonage. He dr. ld. in 1670 allot.; in Mch., 1680, he made an affidavit in which he says, he is 65 yrs. old; he signed the covenant for a new church in Naubuc, in Feb., 1691.

HALE, Lieut. SAMUEL, (s. Samuel, the Settler) b. 1644; m. Ruth (dau. Thos. Edwards). In 1669, his father gave him several pieces of ld. inclu. 30 acs. in the West Field; in 1670, his father-in-law, Edwards, of Hoccanum (in Weth.) gave him 58 acs. ld. at "Nabocke," by the "Beaver Holes," near Salmon Brook. In 1672, the Town of Weth. gave him 80 acs. at Nayaug, and in the same yr. his father gave him 96 acs. at Naubuc, being ld. that formerly belonged to Rev. Henry Smith. He was fence-viewer for Naubuc and Nayaug in 1678, and hence it may be presumed that he was res. on E. side the River; for which district he was surveyor of highways in 1686; he signed agreement for new church there, Feb., 1691.

HALE, THOMAS, the Settler (bro. of Samuel, the Settler) and his sons Ebenezer and Thomas, Jr.—See *Genealogy*.

HALL, BENEZER (or Ebenezer?) s. of Samuel of Midd.; tythingman, 1692; dr. ld. (as Benezzer Hale) in 1694 allot., school committee, 1704, when the name is spelled Hale again. But Benezzer (or Ebenezer) Hall was then living on the E. side of River; bo't Eleazer Kimberly's ho'd, 1692.

HALL, EDWARD, was in Weth. abt. 1670.—See *Genealogy*.

HALL, JOHN, d. at Midd., 1673. Was he the J. H. who came to Weth. with Oldham, 1633? *Savage* (I., 335) finds a John who d. Weth., 1692, leaving a wid., Rebina and ch. Elizabeth, 9 mos. old.—See *Appendix II*.

HALL, "wid. Rebi"[na], wife of John above, dr. ld. in 1694 allot.

HALL, RICHARD, [pos. the Rich. of Midd. ment. by *Savage*, who m. Mary ——— and d. 1691, ae. 71.—H. R. S.], in 1646 was joint owner, with Sam'l Gardner, of lds. which they sold to Abraham Elsen; on 10 Aug., 1653, he sold the ho'd orig. that of Jacob Waterhouse, to Edward Scott. A Rich. H. was killed, 19 May, 1676, at the "Great Falls fight."

HALL, SAMUEL, was voted an inhab. 22 Feb., 1660-1.

HAMILTON, ADAM, warned out of town in Dec., 1682, as not a lawful inhab. but an "intruder."

HANCHETT.—See *Hansett*.

HANSETT, (*Hanchett*) THOMAS, rec. ho'd 25 Feb., 1642, a ho., 1½ acs. ld. bd. by New St., E. (discontinued in 1660); way to Htfd. (Back Lane), W.; Michael Griswold's ho'd, S.; Hugh Wells, N.; in Jan., 1650, the Town gave him 20 acs. at Ry-H.; he was taxed for 4 acs. ld. in Weth. as early as Feb., 1647-8; rem. to New Lond., 1651.

HARRIS, JOHN, res. in Weth., 1655 or earlier, where he was voted for—but for what office does not appear.

HARRIS, WILLIAM, adm. inhab. May, 1700.

HARRINGTON, JOHN, one of signers of covenant for a ch. at Naubuc, Feb., 1691.

HARRISON, JOHN, bo't from John Westall, 1647 or '48, the ho'd orig. Rob't Abbott's, bd. E. by High St., W. by lds. of John Goodrich, N. by ld. of Thos. Wright, S. by a lane leading into Htfd. highway, a ho., barn and 3 acs. ld; Town-crier, 1654; surveyor of highways, 1661; m. Catharine ———, 4 May, 1653, he d. abt. 1668, in Dec. of which yr. his wid. chose "her kinsmen" John and Jonathan Gilbert, to be overseers of her ch.; he left an est. of £610; in 1670, she was convicted of witchcraft but the Ct. of Ass'ts remitted the death-sentence.—See Chapt. XVII, Vol. I.

HAYNES, "Mr." JOSEPH, minister, 1663.

HAYWARD, HENRY.—See *Howard*.

HILLIARD, BENJAMIN, (s. of Hugh, of Salem, Mass.), was Town cow-keeper, 1648; hayward same yr.; principal in a bail-bond in 1649, his step-father, Thos. Wright, being surety. Wright was his mother's third husband, her second one having been John Elsen, who d. 1648.

HILLIARD, JOB, (s. Hugh, of Salem, Mass.), in 1653, or thereabouts, he sold to Sam'l Wright his interest in the ho'd (subject to the life est.) of his mother, Harriet Wright, viz., a ho., and 3 acs. ld. on W. side of the Main St., betw. Rich. Smith, N. and Luke Hitchcock, S.

HILLS, JOSEPH, (s. William and Mary Warner) of Htfd.; fence-viewer, 1680; lister, 1684; collector, 1685; fence-viewer for E. side the River, 1689; sett. in Glast. being one of the signers of covenant for a church there, Feb., 1691.

HILLS, WILLIAM, (s. William of Htfd.) in Jan., 1672-3, or earlier, bo't from Wm. Morris the N. half of the latter's ho-lot on Bell Lane, next S. of Thomas Hurlburt's ho'd; Morris' wife was Hill's youngest sister.

HITCHCOCK, JOHN, (s. of Luke and Elizabeth) rec'd lds. in Weth. by will of his uncle, Wm. Gibbons, of Htfd. in 1665, or thereabouts; the will being written in 1659.

HITCHCOCK, LUKE, (fm. New Haven, 1644?), in 1647 (this appears to be the date) he rec. his ho'd in two lots. One, on which his ho. stood, was bo't fm. Wm. Gibbons, his bro.-in-law. It was, when Gibbons bo't it, in 1641, the ho'd of Rev. Rich. Denton, being next N. of Sam'l Hale's, on W. side of Main St. The other lot, being  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acs. ld. with barn on it, lay next N. of that above described and John Elson's was next N.; he was townsman (selectman) in 1653 and '56; d. 1 Nov. 1659; wife Elizabeth was sister of Will. Gibbons.

HOLLISTER, Lieut. JOHN, the Settler, came to Weth. fm. Weymouth, Mass., 1643; rec. some of his lds. 20 May, 1644, but had prob. held them some years earlier. At this date, a ho-lot of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acs. with ho. bo't of John Reynolds, on E. side of High St. or Common, next S. of John Gibbs' ho-lot; 12 June, 1645, he rec. the ho-lot, ho. and 4 acs. ld. bo't of John Gibbs, being next N. of the above and then bd. by Thos. Bunce's ho-lot on the N., this lot he sold to Sam'l Smith, Jr., prob. in 1647. Mr. Hollister also bo't (date not given) fm. Thos. Parke the ho., barn and 6 acs. ld. on W. side Bell Lane and S. side of Watering Lane (what is now the Alfred France's corner) and next to lot of Thos. Hurlbut S., some  $3\frac{1}{4}$  acs. of this had formerly been the ho'd of Rich. Law on the corner. On 30 Nov., 1655, he bo't of Rich. Treat, Jr., a ho-lot of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acs. on W. side Broad St., bd. W. by Bell Lane, N. by said Treat, S. by James Boosey. On 28 Dec., 1649, a "Comm. was chosen to set out to John Hollister," the ld. given to him by the Church and Towne."—W. T. V.

This was a 50 ac. farm at Nayaug, and in 1649 he rec'd fm. the Town another donation of ld.—where or of what am't doth not appear. In 1660, he bo't the 80 acs. which Thos. Hurlbut the soldier had at Nayaug—So. Glast. This was next S. of "Hollister Farm," and he also became owner of one-fourth part of Clement Chaplin's great tract of 900 acs., being the second fourth fm. the S. side—for this *Chapin* is sole authority); he d. 1660..

HOLLISTER, "Mr." JOHN, (s. of John, the Settler), soon after 1650, went to res. upon a 50 ac. farm which had been given his father by the Town, and "set out" in 1644—at Nayaug, (So. Glast.) and where he afterwards rec'd other lds. by gift and inheritance fm. his father. In 1672, the Town gave him 80 acs. ld. at Nayaug, bd. W. by the highway skirting the River, E. by lds. "not laid out," N. by ld. of Richard Treat, S. by ld. of John Wadhams.

HOLLISTER, JONATHAN, (s. Thomas and Elizabeth), was given lds. by the Town in 1700; fence-viewer, 1706; in 1712, the Town voted to permit his wid. to allow the dwelling she occup. to remain standing upon the Common (at Ry-H.?) and to "improve  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acs. ld. with the same.

HOLLISTER, LAZARUS, (s. Lieut. John, the Settler) owned ld. in the West Field, 1684; dr. ld. in 1694 allot.



HOLLISTER, Lieut. STEPHEN, (s. of Lieut. John, the Settler); the Town, in 1684, gave him 20 acs. ld. in consideration of ld. taken fm. him in the West Field, for a highway; he was constable in 1694, and dr. ld. in the allot. of that yr.

HOLLISTER, Lieut. THOMAS, (s. of Lieut. John, the Settler) m. Elizabeth (dau. John) Latimer; surveyor, 1670; in 1677, the Town gr. him a small strip fm. the street, to be added to his ho'd on the W. side of Broad St., which he had inher. fm. his father; he also inher. another ho'd on the W. side of Bell Lane, which he sold to Nath'l Butler. His mother-in-law, Mrs. Anna Latimer, in 1672, gave him 28 acs. ld. at Ry-H. on W. side Midd. road, betw. Sam'l Boardman's ld. N. and a highway S.; in 1680, she gave him 225 acs. at Nayaug, being the first fourth fm. the S. side of the .900 acs. formerly Clement Chaplin's. It was bd. W. by the River, and ext. E. three miles into the Wilderness; Daniel Rose then owning next N. and John (s. Lieut. John) Hollister, next S. John Wells (s. of Hugh) contested Mr. Latimer's right to the ld. but execution in Thos. Hollister's favor, was issued in 1681.

HOLMES, JONAS, dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; was gr. ld. by the Town at rear of Wm. Morris' lot, at lower end of Ry-H., 1698.

HOWARD, (sometimes *Heyward*) HENRY, was on the comm. to run the line betw. Weth. and Htfd., 1659; he then (and as early as 1651) owned the ho'd, formerly that of Josiah Churchill, on the N. E. cor. High St., and Meadow Lane.—See *Savage*.

HOWARD, JOHN, (s. of Henry and Sarah [Stone]) dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; fence-viewer, 1715; lived on E. side of High St. in 1721. (May have been s. of John, who d. at Antigua in 1688. If so, was 15 yrs. of age at that date.)—See *Andros Court. Rec.*

HOWARD, WILLIAM, (s. of John and Mary), had ho'd on E. side High St., above the road to the meadow, 1721.

HOYT, (sometimes *Hight*) WALTER; in 1647 or earlier, the Town gave him a ho-lot bd. W. by what is now Back Lane; E. by New St. (discontinued 1660), N. by Sam'l Gardner's. He was at Norwalk, 1659.

HUBBARD, GEORGE, the Settler, came to Weth. fm. Wat., 1635; his ho'd, a ho. and 3 acs. ld., was on W. side High St. at the Common, bd. N. by the Common, and the ho'd of Edw'd Mason, W. by John Plumb's (afterwards Gov. Thos. Welles') ho'd, S. by Rich. Guildersleeve's; in Oct., 1657, being then a res. of Guilford, Mr. H. sold this place to his s. John.

HUBBARD, JOHN, (s. of George, the Settler) b. prob. in Eng., rec'd a convey. of his father's ho'd, Oct., 1657. On his rem. to Hadley, Mass. (1660?) he sold his place to John Blackleach, a mcht. fm. Salem, Mass.; he was surveyor of highways, 1654; on Comm. to run line betw. Weth. and Midd., 1659; rem. to Hadley, 1660 or thereabouts; ret. to Weth., where he was fence-viewer for E. side of River, 1683; surveyor, 1688, [tho' this may have been his s. John, Jr.]

HUBBARD, JOHN, (s. of John, gd-s. of George) b. 1655; he may have been the surveyor on E. side the River in 1683; and surveyor in 1688—ment. above.

- HUBBARD, SAMUEL, (s. of George, the Settler), had ho'd on W. side Broad St. in 1640, or earlier, it was next S. of Thurston Raynor's, which was the corner lot at the N. end. In a deed from Edmond Wood to George Wyllys, dated 28 Mch., 1640, Wood describes part of his ld. as having been obtained by him fm. Samuel Hubbard "late of Weth."
- HUBBS, SAMUEL, warned out of Town, 26 Dec., 1682, as an "intruder."
- HUNN, GEORGE, (s. of Nath'l, gd-s. of George, of Boston) Daniel Porter, "bonesetter," testifies, Oct., 1707, that abt. a yr. previously he found sd. Hunn, disabled to travel, and that he will be worse, "as he grows in years."
- HUNN, NATHANIEL, (s. of George?) dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; was hayward, 1702; in 1704, Abigail, the inf. dau. of Wm. Powell, was bound out to him; he res. Dec., 1712, at West Farms, (New.), where he signed petition for a separate parish there.
- HUNN, SAMUEL, (bro. of Nathaniel?) res. at West Farms (New.) Dec. 1712, when he signed petit. for a separate parish there; bo't the 91st lot (orig. Lazarus Hollister's) in the div. of 1693. Trad. makes him one of the three first sett. of New.
- HUNNIWELL, JOHN, the Town in Mch., 1680, gave him liberty to enclose some of the Town ld., "on the W. side the brook by Leonard Dix's" (now Tando's), and to burn brick there. In Dec., 1682, the Town gave him 8 acs. of ld. "at the E. end of his saw-mill lot, where he hath set his ho." This was in consideration of a highway previously laid out by him. There was a condition of forfeiture in case the ho. or ld. should be occup. by tenants "not approved of by the selectmen." He, or one of the same name, was of Midd., 1688.
- HUNT, BLANCHE, est. settled, 1644.—*Col. Rec.*, I., 457.
- HURLBURT, JOHN, (s. of Thomas, the Settler) b. 8 Mch., 1642; m. Mary (dau. John) Deming, the Settler; rem. to Midd.; 120 acs. ld. gr. him by Gen. Ct., 1671, as bounty for his services in War of 1637, and sd. ld. laid out of Midd. in 1718.
- HURLBURT, JONATHAN, (s. Samuel, gd-s. of Thomas?) res. at West Farms (New.) 1712, when he signed the petit. for a separate parishh there.
- HURLBURT, JOSEPH, (s. of Thomas, the Settler, or of Thomas, Jr.) res. West Farms (New.) 1713, when the site for the new (first) meeting-ho. was fixed upon adjacent to his ho.; in 1678, he sold to his father, the 5 ac. lot in the West Field, bd. by a highway, E.. W. and S., and ld. of his bro. Samuel.
- HURLBURT, SAMUEL, (s. Thomas, the Settler) dr. ld. in 1670 and 1694 allot's; in 1677 his father gave him a 5 acs. lot in the West Field.
- HURLBURT, STEPHEN, (s. of Thomas, Jr.?), who, in 1681, gave him ■ ho.; he was collector in 1693; in 1694 he had ■ ho. and (blacksmith?) shop, when the Town gr. him ld. adj. to it; he drew ld. in 1694 allot.; his ho. was next E. of Michael Griswold's on Back Lane.

HURLBURT, THOMAS, the Settler, was in Weth., 1637(?) and served bravely in the Peq. campaign of that yr. for which he rec'd fm. the Gen. Ct. 300 acs. ld.; his ho'd rec. 14 Mch., 1647, was a ho., barn and 3 acs. ld. bd. E. by Bell Lane, S. by ld. of Ab'm Elsen, W. and N. by ho'd of Mr. Robert Parke. It was formerly the ho'd of Jasper Rawlings. Hurlburt was a blacksmith especially in nail-making; collector, 1647; in 1662 the Town gave him ld. "to set a shop and a littel ho. on"; in 1660 the Town gave him 80 acs. ld. at Nayaug, and, in same yr. he exch. ho'ds with Lieut John Hollister (who had several) taking one adj. his old one; in 1669 the Town gave him a small piece next N. of Henry Buck's, at the Common, W. of High St.; he d. after 1677.

HURLBURT, THOMAS, (s. of Thomas, the Settler) blacksmith, as was his father, who, in 1671, gave him his ld. at the Common, conditioned that the donee should carry on the blacksmith trade; in 1673 he bo't Thos. Williams' ho'd, E. side of High St., next S. of John Coleman's; in 1676, he bo't of Wm. Hills, Jr., and wife, their ho'd on W. side Bell Lane, betw. Thos. Hurlburt, Sen.'s N., and Mrs. Sam'l Martin, S.

HYDE, "Mr." TIMOTHY, (s. of George, of Boston) m. (acc. to *Savage*) Elizabeth (dau. Thos.) Olcott of Htfd., where he res. some yrs. after 1671; collector, 1680; the Town gave him ld. for a warehouse by the River bank, now the S. E. shore of the Cove, in 1683; he was lister, 1686; came fm. Roxbury, Mass., to Weth., 1675.

IRELAND, SAMUEL, carpenter, came to Boston fm. London, in ship *Increase*, 1635 ae. 32, with wife, Mary, ae. 30 and dau., Martha, ae. 1½; had some ch. b. here, and d. 1639; wid. m. 1645, Rob't Burrows, and d. 1672; was in Weth., 1637, or earlier; ho'd was a ho. and 3½ acs. ld. bd. S. by highway (Sandy Lane), E. by Jacob Waterhouse's ho-lot; N. by Jeffry Ferris' ho-lot; W. by a ho-lot formerly of Geo. Chappell's. This is as described by his wid.

JAGGER, JEREMIAH, (sometimes, tho' incorrectly—*Gager*), rec. his lds. in Weth., Mch., 1640; a ho. and 2½ acs. ld. bd. N. and S. by lds. of Nath'l Foote; W. by highway "leading to the lower bridge" [below Broad St.]; E. by the Plain; was a soldier in the Peq. campaign of 1637, for which he had 60 acs. ld. gr. him by Gen. Ct.; rem. to Stamford, 1641, and *Savage* says was there master of a trading vessel and went to the W. I. four yrs. before his dth., which occurred 14 Aug., 1658, abroad; his wid. Elizabeth, m. (2) 12 May, 1659, Rob't Usher, and in 1671 grants for his services "in the old war" were made to his sons, John, Jeremiah and Jonathan, all sett. at Stamford.—*Savage*, II., 535. He came to Weth., 1637.

JENNINGS, ("*Gennings*") JOSEPH, taxed in the Ind. Purchase, 1673.

JENNINGS, JOSHUA, carpenter, was in Weth., 1646, where he was employed on the bldg. of the meeting ho.—and perhaps earlier. In Jan., 1648-9, he was paid 20s for "setting up the minister's desk," and £6 for other work in meeting-ho. His wife was Mary (perhaps a dau. of Matthew) Williams; m. 1647; rem. to Fairfield, where he d. 1676.

JESSUP, JOHN, ho-std. (not rec.) was in 1641, next N. of Josiah Churchill's, on E. side High St., at the Common; sold to Jacob Waterhouse, who, in 1647,

sold to Will. Colfax; rem. to Stamford, 1640; thence to Greenwich.—See *Savage* and Bolton's *Westchester*.

JOHNSON, JACOB, dr. ld. as a Weth. ho-holder, in the 1670 allot., also in 1673.

JONES, LEWIS, a son-in-law of Henry Palmer, fm. whom, abt. 1659, he rec'd 10 acs. ld. (formerly Sam'l Boardman's) in the West Field, on the W. side of the "Mill-Way," betw. Sam'l Smith's N. and John Latimer's S.; rem. to Saybrook?

JORDAN, SARAH, had lds. in Great Meadow and Swamp in 1647, and prob. some yrs. earlier.—No further trace of her found. [A Robert Jordan, preacher, of Casco, Me., in 1641 had a wife, Sarah.]

JUDD, THOMAS, a blacksmith, was voted an inhab. 19 Mch., 1683-4; perhaps s. of Thomas, of Far. If so, b. abt., 1638.

KEENEY, ALEXANDER, first appears in Weth. recs. in Mch., 1666-7, when the Town gave him a piece of ld. for a ho-lot on the W. side Midd. road, a little below Goffe's Bridge; dr. ld. in 1670 allot.; d. 1680; wid. Alice (says *Savage*) d. 1683, leaving 7 ch.; in 1682, the Town paid for the schooling of two of these ch.

KEENEY, ALEXANDER, (s. and oldest ch. of Alexander) b. abt. 1662; in 1683, the Town gave him 20 acs. ld. adj. the River, at what is now So. Glast.; prob. sett. in Glast.

KELSEY, (*Kelcy*) JOHN, (s. of Stephen) of Htfd.; b. 1680; one of petit. for New. parish, 1712; res. W. of Beckley Quarter.

KELSEY, MARK, owned ld. in Weth., 1664; said to have lived in Windsor, but called himself "of Weth.;" mort. and bond which he gave to Eleazer Kimberly, dated 27 Feb., 1664-5.

KELSEY, STEPHEN, (s. of Stephen of Htfd.) and b. 1677; one of petit. 1712, for New. parish; res. W. of Beckley Quarter.

KILBOURN, ABRAHAM, (s. of Sgt. John) b. 1675; m. Sarah (dau. John) Goodrich; hayward, 1695; signed protest agt. giving away the Town's ld. 1698; lister, 1708; had fm. his father, 1697, lds. in the West Field; d. 1712-13; wid. m. Thos. Boardman, 1718.

KILBOURN, ABRAHAM, (s. John and Susanna) b. 1691, m. Sarah (dau. John) Mitchell, of Htfd., 5 June, 1712; he was b. on E. side River, but before the orig. of G. as a town; his wife d. 3 Oct., 1719, and he m. (2) soon after, Mary (dau. Samuel) Tudor, of Htfd., who d. 5 Aug., 1751, and in following Apl., he m. (3) Abigail House; was a prominent office holder in Glast.

KILBOURN, BENJAMIN, (s. John and Susanna) b. 30 Mch., 1684, on E. side River; d. in 1713, or earlier, as Payne K. Kilbourn thinks.

KILBOURN, EBENEZER, (s. of Sgt. John) b. 1665; m. Grace (dau. Peter and gd-dau. Gershom) Bulkely, 1692; hayward, 1684; fence-viewer, 1691; dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; d. 1711-12.



KILBOURN, EBENEZER, (s. of John and Susanna) b. 10 Mch., 1679, on E. side River, as the family genealogist thinks—but it is doubtful if John's father lived on that side before 1685; m. Sarah Fox, 1 June, 1698.

KILBOURN, ELEAZER, (s. of Ebenezer and Grace) b. 26 July, 1698; took possess. of his mother's dower est., under agreement, in Oct., 1721; d. s. p. 1761.

KILBOURN, "Mr." GEORGE, (s. of Sgt. John, by his 2d wife, Sarah (dau. John) Bronson, of Far.) b. 1668; dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; collector, 1699; grand-juror, 1714; constable, 1716; owned the lot next N. of burying-ground, the line of which was sett. 1733. He d. 8 Feb., 1741.

KILBOURN, HEZEKIAH, (s. Geo., Jr. and Abigail) b. 1700; grad. Y. C., 1720; kept the tavern in Weth. a few rods N. of the meeting-ho. 1753.

KILBOURN, JAMES, (s. of Joseph and Dorothy) b. 13 Apl., 1707; rem. to Litchfield with his father, 1721, and was selectman and tavern-keeper there.

KILBOURN, Sgt. JOHN, (s. of Thos. the Settler) b. 1624, Eng.; collector, 1747; constable, 1651; dr. ld. in 1670 and 1694 allots.; was on many important Comm. especially on town lines; often selectman and deputy; d. 1703.

KILBOURN, JOHN, (s. of Sgt. and gd-s. of Thos. the Settler) b. 1651-2; m. 1673-4, Susanna (dau. Wm.) Hills; res. Naubuc, 1685, perhaps earlier, where in 1690, he became a promoter of the work of estab. the new township there; in 1693 was a selectman of Glast. and was the ancestor of the Glast. branch of the K. family; wife d. Oct., 1701, and 12 May following he m. (2) Elizabeth (dau. John) Mitchell of Htfd.

KILBOURN, JOHN, (s. John and Susanna) b. 1677; res. prob. on the W. (but the fam. genealogist thinks on the E. side the River). No evidence appears that his father was living at Naubuc before 1685; he was father of the famous Capt. John K. of Walpole, N. H.

KILBOURN, JOSEPH, (s. of Sgt. John and Sarah), b. abt. 1672; in Mch., 1717, lds. of his in Beaver Mead. were taken for a highway; he, with Capt. Jacob and Thos. W. Griswold, Ezekiel Buck and John Stoddard, all of Weth., became, inn 1720-22, orig. sett. of Litchfield and he the ancestor of the L. branch of the K. family.

KILBOURN, THOMAS, the Settler, b. at Wood-Ditton, Eng., 1578; came to New Eng. in the ship *Increase* in Apl., 1635, and sett. at once at Weth., where he had a ho. and 3 acs. ld. on S. W. side of Broad St., John Fletcher's ho'd adj. him on N. and Sam. Smith's on S., being ld. later of Col. Chester's, and now of Comstock, Ferre & Co., seedsmen.

KIMBERLY, "Mr." ELEAZER, (s. of Thomas and Alice, of New Haven), he was the first male ch. b. in N. H. and bp. 17 Nov., 1639; in 1667 he rec. 132 acs. ld. on E. side the River, which was his "wife's portion," being one of the 3 mile lots, bd. W. by the River, and N. and S. by lds. of Gov. Thos. Welles, dec'd. As this ld. was part of the est. of John Robbin's, "Gentleman," it is apparent that Kimberly's wife was a dau. of Mr. Robbins, to whom the ld. was distr. At the same date, Mr. K., also had another tract on E. side

River, at "Red Hill," of 112½ acs. betw. ld. of Daniel Rose, N. and Hugh Welles S. In 1667, he bo't of Robert Foote, the ho'd formerly of Sam'l Hubbard, near the upper end, W. side of Broad St. betw. John Coleman, N. and James Boosey's S. He had 20 acs. in the West Field, betw. Robert Rose, N. and Nath'l Foote S.

KIRBY, JOHN, an early settler and JOHN, Jr., his son.—See *Genealogies*.

KIRKHAM, (or *Kircum*, *Kirkum*) SAMUEL, dr. one of the 50 acs. lots at the West Farms (New.) 1694.

KIRKHAM, THOMAS, was in Weth. 1648, or earlier, when his wife was employed by the Town to sweep the meeting-ho.; the Town gave him a ho-lot "which lyeth in the W. side the highway beyond Frances [Rob't Frances'], as we goe toward Htfd." This was 3 acs. on the W. side of Sandy Lane, at the extreme N. end, and ext. thro' to Back Lane. He d. in 1677 or earlier, as in Dec. of that yr. the Town gave to his wid. "and her children, a small piece of ld. at the water side." In Mch., 1683-4, the Town voted that the wid. had not performed the condition of the grant, and declared that the title to the ld. stated to be "at the Common," was forfeit to the Town.

KIRKHAM, THOMAS, (s. of Thomas, the Settler) in 1679, during his illness, the Town defrayed his medical expenses. In Mch., 1701-2, the Town gave him 4 acs. ld., the recorder spelling his name, in this case "*Carkam*"; he was, at one time, constable?

LATIMER, BEZALEEL, (s. of John, the Settler) b. 1657; fence-viewer, 1686; inher. the ho'd on the E. side of Broad St. next N. of the James Boosey place, d. (acc. to recs. of Andros' Ct., at Htfd.) before June, 1688, leaving a wid. (Saint Latimer.)

LATIMER, JOHN, the Settler, came to Weth., 1645, prob.; he first rec. his lds., 22 June, 1646, 3 acs. ld. with a cellar and barn thereon (bo't of Sam'l Boardman) bd. by Broad St., N. W., Plain, S. E.; Leonard Chester, N. E., Rich. Parke, S. W. On 16 June, 1647, he rec. another ho-lot, next S. of the above, with ho. and 3¼ acs. ld. bd. by ld. of James Boosey, E., lane leading the Plain, S. On 11 Mch., 1650, he rec. another ho'd, bo't of John Rose (who had it fm. his father, Robt. Rose) being a ho. and 3 acs. ld. bd. by Broad St., W., the Plain, E., Rich. Treat, N., John Robbins, S. This he sold to John Betts. In Jan., 1654, he bo't of John Edwards, the ho'd on W. side of Broad St. betw. Sam'l Smith, N. and Sam'l Martin, S. This was not correctly recd. until 1665. In the meantime, Jan., 1661-2, it had been rec. as bo't of Sam'l Smith, in Mch., 1660-1. Mch. 12, 1657-8, he rec. another ho'd (bo't of Matthias Treat, Anth. Wright and Sam. Belden) a ho., cellar, orchard and a ho-lot of 2¼ acs. bd. W. by Broad St., E. by Rob. Foote, S. by James Boosey, N. by John Coleman. The orchard was bd. by Street (now Pratt's Ferry Road) N., and Street (Broad) S., the street (Broad?) W., the ho-lot of John Coleman and piece next above described: in 1660 he was one of the comm. to complete the matter of the purchase of the school-ho.; he was also on Comm. to lay out Emanuel Buck's ld., 1662; he d. 1662, being at the time one of the wealthiest ld-owners in town.

LATIMER, Sgt. JOHN, (s. of John, the Settler) b. 1650; constable, 1685; collector, 1698; inher. the dwelling-ho. and bldgs. and the N. part of the ho-lot of his

father, on the E. side Broad St. next S. of the Leonard Chester place; dr. ld. in 1694 allot; his dwell-ho. one of the six ordered to be "fortified," in Feb., 1703-4; surveyor of highways, 1706.

LATIMER, JONATHAN, (s. of John, the Settler) b. 1655; m. Abigail (dau. Daniel, Sr.) Rose; inher. the ho'd which his father bo't of John Edwards, on W. side Broad St.; fence-viewer, 1706.

LATIMER, SAMUEL, dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; hayward, 1708.

LAW, (sometimes "Lawes") RICHARD, in 1640 sold to John Talcott, "Gentleman," his ho'd, a ho. and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  acs. ld. bd. S. by Rob't Parke's ho'd, being the cor. of Bell and Watering lanes, and (1883) belonging to heirs of Alfred Francis Law owned considerable ld. in Weth. where he came (prob. in the first yr. of its settlement) fm. Wat. perhaps. He rem. to Stamford, 1640, where he was a prominent citizen, and he was the gd-fthr. of Gov. Jona Law.

LEAVITT, JOSHUA, may have been a s. of Josiah, of Hingham, Mass., and, if so, b. 1 Aug., 1681; adm. inhab. of Weth. Dec., 1713; prob. the J. L. who d. at Suffield, 1734, leaving 5 ch.

LEWIS, WALTER, in Weth. 1648, or earlier; a "servant to Mrs. Hollister, Dec. 1647. —*Col. Rec.*, I., 174; was a seaman and capt. by the pirate ship of Prince Rupert, a nephew of Charles I., called the "Robber Prince," abt. 1652; and had both legs blown off, and d. in consequence.—See *Genealogies*.

LEWIS, WILLIAM, in Weth., 1640? *Col. Rec.*, I., 40; rem. to Far. abt. 1649.

LILLEY, JOHN, the Settler; was in Weth. 1648 or earlier, does not appear elsewhere on rec., except in connection with the births of his ch. *Savage* gives at least three of same name.

LIVERMORE, JOHN, came in the *Francis* in 1634, fm. Ipswich, Eng., to Wat., thence, prob. at once to Weth., where he remained until 1639, when he rem. to New Haven. His ho'd, a ho. and 6 acs. ld. was next S. of Jonas Weede's, a roadway being betw. and was bd. W. by the Common, where the public landings were, E. by the Meadow, S. by the ho'd of Rob't Bates. His ho. was the furthest N. at the Common, except Weede's; sold to Thos. Curtis, prob. abt. 1640. In 1650, he and prob. his ch. rēt. to Wat. where he d. 1684, ae. 78 yrs.

LONGDON, (sometimes *Langdon*) ANDREW, bo't the Wm. Comstock ho'd in 1643, prob., which he rec., 10 Mch., 1643-4, a ho. and 3 acs. ld. by Fort St., N., Robert Burroughs, E., Sandy Lane, S., came to a point W.; soon after, he rem. to New Lond., where he d. abt. 1680—s. p.

LORD, RICHARD, owned much ld. in Weth. but res. Htfd.; his wid. Sarah bo't ho'd of Gregory Wilterton, on E. side High St., 1668.—See *Col. Archives*, Vol. II., 101, for mort. of certain lds. of Sam'l Wyllys, which he levied upon.

LORD, RUTH, (wid. of Thomas?) owned lds. in "Gooseberry Swamp," 1742, concerning the bds. of which she had a dispute with Wm. Roads.

LORD, THOMAS, (s. of Thomas, of Htfd.) b. Eng; wife, Mary; a noted "bonesetter," and 1652 the Gen. Ct. gr. him £15 and freed him from "watching, warding and training" in consideration of his "improving" his best skill amongst the inhabs. of the towns upon the River." He was the first schoolmaster chosen (Apl., 1658) by the Town, whose name appears upon rec.; he was re-chosen 1659, with salary of £25, and to have a ho. and meadow-lot, rent free, "as formerly." In 1660, he was again chosen, conditioned upon his acceptance of such "pay" as should be free contribu. to him," with free use of ho. and ld. In same yr. he bo't a ho-lot fm. Thos. Williams, being the S. part of W.'s ho'd, on E. side Main St., a little below the meeting-ho. and bd. S. by the James Boosey place. The Boosey lot ext. through to Broad St. but the Williams lot, which was part of the old Matthias Treat ho'd, did not. He d. 1661 (?)—See *Savage*.

LOVELAND, THOMAS, first of the name in Weth. was gr. 80 acs. ld. by the Town, Nov., 1672. It was laid out on E. side the River, at Nayaug (So. Glast.) next S. of Rich. Treat's "farm"; was fence-viewer for E. side River, Feb., 1675-6, whence we may infer that he was then res. on the E. side of River. He prob. came to Weth., 1670, at which time he was "made free." Ten yrs. later he was res. at Htfd., says *Savage* (but, perhaps he was a son of the "Wid. Lovenam" who was in Weth. 1649.—*Col. Rec.*, I, 193).

LOVEMAN, (or *Lovenam*) (?), Widow.—See *Loveland*, THOMAS.

MACKIE, (sometimes *Macky*) HUGH, bo't Wm. Morris' ld. in the South Field, abt. where Russell Adams' ho. is; in Meh., 1673; he bo't Mr. James Treat's 16 acs. in same 'field,' 1679, which he sold to Theophilus Sherman, 1682.

MACKIE, JOHN, (prob. s. Hugh), dr. ld. in 1694 allot.

MAGGUT.—See *Mygatt*.

MARSHALL, JOHN, (perhaps s. of John, of Boston) d. Weth. 1697, or late in 1696.—See *Genealogy*.

THOMAS.—See also, *Genealogy*.

MARTIN, SAMUEL, a *caviat* was ent. of rec. Aug., 1643, by Mrs. Robbins in the absence of her husband, John Robbins, "Gentleman," agt. the ho'd which sd. Martin had previously bo't of John Carrington; being a cellar with  $\frac{1}{2}$  ac. of ld (no other description). On, or before 3d May, 1647, sd. Carrington sold to Martin the ho. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acs. ld. which the latter had bo't of John Robbins, who had bo't it of Edward Vere, bd. by the Swamp, or Common W., the Common, E., highway, N., Swamp, S. Carrington afterwards sold the *same lot* to the wid. of Leonard Chester. Martin's wife was Phebe Bisby, dau. of William Bisby, a London meht, "Gentleman." In 1649, Mr. Bisby bo't, thro' Gov. Hopkins and Will. Gibbons, of Htfd., as trustees for his dau., Mrs. Martin, fm. Sam'l Boardman, the old Evans ho-lot, a ho. and 3 acs. ld. bd. by Broad St., E., Bell lane, W., John Edwards, N., and Nath'l Dickinson, S. Mrs. Martin's first husband was a Bracy.—See *Bracy*, this vol. "Mr." Martin contributed to the expense of seating the meeting-ho. in 1648; was sent to "the Bay," 1660, to fetch the Rev. Cotton to Weth.; was gr.



leave to live in the "town-ho." 1662; dr. ld. in 1670 allot.; in 1669 bo't John Smith's lot of 55 acs. in the West Field, nxt. N. of Henry Palmer's. He was a lieut. in King Phillip's War, 1675; d. 15 Sept., 1683.

Mrs. Martin bo't the John Wadhams ho'd on the W. side of Bell Lane, in her own name in 1675.

MASON, EDWARD, d. before 1640, leaving no will and hence *may have been* one of those killed in the Ind. massacre at Weth., Apl., 1637; his ho'd was a ho. and 3 acs. ld. bd. E. by the Landing Place (now The Cove); W. by Jo. Plumb's ho'd; S. by sd. Plumb's swamp, (N. E. of where the State Prison now is); N. by Conn. River; he also rec. 8 other pieces of ld.—no dates given, but *Htfd. Ld. Recs.*, I., gives fm. 1640-'53. Invent. of est. (*Col. Rec.*, I., 51) goods and chattels, £121, no lds.; taken by Wm. Swayne and Geo. Hubbard.

MASON, NICHOLAS, poss. the N. of Saybrook, 1648, or his s.; perhaps, but not prob. a s. of Edward; dr. ld. in 1694 allot. It was his wid., perhaps, who, as "Goodwife Mason," was assisted by the Town, in 1699, for the medical care of her daughter.

MAY, HEZEKIAH, bo't  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Elisha Mix's ho'd W. side High St.

MERRITT, THOMAS, bo't of Thos. Standish, 1662, the S. part of the latter's ho'd on Sandy Lane.

MILLER, JOHN, prob. came to Weth. 1636; his ho'd a ho. and 3 acs. ld. on W. side Bell Lane, betw. the ho'd of Jasper Rawlings, N. and ld. of Nath'l Foote, S.; sold to Edw'd Vere, who sold to Ab'm Elsen; Miller rem. to Stamford, 1642, or earlier, and d. there.

MILLER, WILLIAM, (s. of Wm. of Ipswich), b. 30 Nov., 1659?—of Northampton, May, 1669, when he bo't Philip Russel's ld. at Naubuc, 48 ac.—and shortly thereafter rem. thither.

MILLS, RICHARD, was of Weth., 28 Apl., 1641, when he sold his ho'd to Will. Comstock; a "ho. barn, two cellars and other bldgs.," with 2 acs. ld., located in the fork of road formed by Sandy Lane and Fort (now Prison) St., formerly Geo. Chappell's, bd. E., by Jeffry Ferris' ho'd and Sam'l Ireland dec'd; In 1642 the rec. ment. him as of "Unkoway" (Fairfield); he went to Stratford, thence abt. 1653, to Stamford, thence, 1663, to Westchester.

MITCHELL, JAMES, (s-in-law of Rev. Stephen Mix); bo't  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Elisna Mix's ho'd, W. side High St.—See *Genealogies*.

MITCHELL, MATTHEW, the Settler, came fm. Eng. to Charlestown, Mass., in 1635, in ship *James* with wife and sons David and Jonathan; thence to Concord, where his ho. was burned, thence to Agawam (Springfield), thence, 1636, to Saybrook; thence, prob. 1638, to Weth. To the latter place he brought a considerable no. of cattle, notwithstanding he lost some by Ind. depredations, on the way up. Before coming he had bo't of Capt. Robert Seeley (then in command at the Fort, at Saybrook) his ho'd at Weth., a ho. and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  acs. ld. on the S. E. cor. Broad St. and the Plain Lane. In 1640, or earlier, he bo't of James Boosey his ho'd on W. side of Broad St. betw.

Robert Coe's S. and that formerly John Strickland's, N., being the lot next N. of that (in 1883) occup. by Thos. G. Adams. Both these places he sold to Rich. Treat in 1641. He also had 135 acs. in the West Field, being the principal owner therein. He, perhaps, took this in right of Capt. Seeley, one of the orig. "adventurer" proprietors of Weth., or perhaps the Town gave it to him, directly as his proportion as a tax payer. He had, also, 900 acs. at Nayaug (So. Glast.) betw. Clement Chaplin's tract N. and Lieut. John Hollister's farm, S. There are indications that he depastured this latter, and estab. a "cow-pen" thereon, as early as 1638, certainly in 1639; and hence was prob. the first to have cattle on that side the River.

He was chosen Recorder (Clerk) for Weth., Apl., 1640, but the Gen. Ct. rejected the Town's choice, at the instigation, it would seem, of Clement Chaplin, the very sensitive Ruling Elder at Weth. In consequence, prob. of the roughness of the Gen. Ct.'s attitude toward him, and its censure of him for his having ruffled the Elder's feelings, Mr. Mitchell, in 1640, rem. to Stamford, where he was appointed as his worth deserved, and where he d. 1643.

MIX, Rev. STEPHEN, succeeded Rev. Will. Partridge in the ministry at Weth., 1693-'94; in 1704, he rec'd fm. the Town 50 acs. ld. adj. N. line of Midd., bd. by the Mattabesett river N. and now in Beckley Quarter—it was not laid out until 1709. His ho. which stood nr. the cor. of High St., on N. side of Sandy Lane, was one of the six "fortified" houses of June, 1704; and in Aug., 1711, Colonial Commissary, Roger Wolcott, reimbursed him to the extent of £3 6s. for stores impressed fm. him for use in the Canada expedition.—See, also, Chapter VIII, and *Genealogies*.

MONTAGUE, RICHARD, b. abt. 1614, came fm. Boston, abt. 1647 with his wife, Abigail (Deming) and several ch. At Weth. he bo't the ho'd of William Gull, a ho. and 3 acs. ld. on E. side High St. betw. George Wolcott's, N., and Will Colfax's, S. In 1652, the Town gave him a strip in front, 2 r. wide at N. end and 1 at S. ext., fm. "the Rails" N. to the Street S.; sold to Thos. Curtis, 1660. In 1685, Curtis' heirs, as is inferred fm. a vote of that yr. "threw up" this strip of ld. In Feb., 1659-'60, he rec. a ho'd bo't of Will. Colfax, on E. side High St. betw. his own N. and Henry Howard's S., a ho. and 3 acs. ld., and which he also sold to Thos. Curtis, 1660. He was a baker by trade; and rem. to Hadley, Mass., with the Rev. Mr. Russell and his congregation, 1659-'60; he d. 14 Dec., 1681.—See Judd's *Hist. Hadley*.

MONTAGUE, RICHARD, (s. John of Hadley and gd-s. of Richard, the Weth. Settler). —See *Land Recs.*, Vol. IV.

MOORCOCK, (sometimes *Morecock*) NICHOLAS, came fm. Eng., says *Savage*, to Boston, in 1635, ae. 14 yrs.; prob. soon thereafter to Weth.; was collector. 1689; had ld. gr. him by Town, 1691, for a warehouse site, by the River (now The Cove); dr. ld. in 1694 allot. (Poss. this Weth. Nicholas may have been a s. of the Eng. emigrant, Nicholas.)

MOREHOUSE, THOMAS, sold his ho'd on the S. side of what is now the Pratt's Ferry Rd., in 1640, prob. It adj. Thos. Sherwood's (but whether on the E. or W. doth not appear), with the Church ld. next beyond, and James Boosey's ho'd on Broad St. bdg. it S.; George Wyllys of Htfd., was the purchaser. M. rem. to Stamford, 1640.

MOREY, (sometimes *Morray* and *Murry*) JOHN, may have been the one of that name, who came to this country, fm. London, Eng., in the *Blessing*, ac. 19, in June, 1635; his wife was Constance [Martin?] a gd-dau. of Wm. Bisby of Lond., Gent. In 1661, he and wife, both then of Weth., quit-claimed to "Mr." Samuel Martin of Weth., their interest in the ho'd at Weth. bo't by Mr. Bisby for his dau., Mrs. Sam'l Martin, Sen. In the deed, to which there is no signature, the name is spelled *Morey* and *Morray*.

MORRIS, ROBERT, in 1663, convey. estate to his wife Anna, there being, apparently, no ch. In the convey, he recites that he had much less est. than she, at time of marriage. In same yr. with title of "Mr." he was of a comm. to invite Mr. Haynes to the ministry at Weth.

MORRIS, WILLIAM, dr. ld. in 1670 allot.; Jan. 7, 1672-3, he rec. a ho-lot "which hee had in part of that portion hee had with his wife," on the W. side of Bell Lane, 1¾ acs. ld. with a ho. thereon, which "he built at his owne cost," betw. Will. Hills N. and Will. Colfax's heirs S.; Morris' wife was Will. Hill's youngest sister. In 1676, the Town gave him 12 acs. ld. on the W. side Midd. road, at Rocky Hill, next S. of Sgt. Hugh Wells; in 1694, he was supported, in part, by the Town. In 1696, the Town authorized him to sell the ld. it had given him, the avails to be used in his maintenance.

MORTON, THOMAS, appears to have been the person who, in 1712, is named Thos. *Molton* on the petit. for a separate parish at West Farms (New.); Mch. 12 of that, or the following yr., he bo't Jacob Deming's ld. 7½ acs. at Ry-H. formerly Jonathan Deming's (father of Jacob, and who had rem. back to Far.). It was on N. side of road running W. fm. the cor. now James Warner's ho'd; he m. Comfort, wid. of Nath'l Beckly and dau. of Jona Deming. Was he a bro. of Jonathan, of Hadley?

MURRAY, JOHN.—See *Morey*.

NASH, JOSEPH, (s.-in-law of Francis Norton) poss. belonged in Htfd. but prob. in Weth., 1668, where he then, with military title of Sergeant—with John Norton, rec'd lds. in Weth. by the will of Fr. Norton.

NORTH, JOHN, (perhaps, s. of John of Far. and b. abt. 1641), rec'd Oct., 1677, fm. the Town, half an ac. of ld. N. of John Goodrich's pasture; he dr. ld. in allot. of 1693; was hayward, 1702.

NORTHEND, JOHN, in Apl., 1641, rec. a ho'd which had been given him by the Town, of 2½ acs. ld. bd. N. by John Seaman's ld., E. by Robert Rose's Plain lot., S. by Leslie Bradfield's, W. by a highway. He rem. to Stamford, 1640-1.

NORTON, FRANCIS, sold his ho'd to Sam'l Hale, Jan., 1643-4—it was a ho., barn and 3 acs. ld. bd. by Rose Lane, E., a lane next the lots given by the Town to Sam'l Boardman and John Riley, W., a lane leading to the Wilderness, S., Sam'l Hale's ld., N.

NORTON, JOHN, prob. the one to whom Francis Norton left certain lds. in Weth., 1667.—See *Nath.* above. Also, *Conn. Col. Rec.*, I; *New Haven Col. Rec.*, I, and *Candee* and *Robinson Genealogies*.

NOTT, GERSHOM, Town cow-keeper, 1713.—See, also, *Nott Genealogy*.

NOTT, JOHN, the Settler, prob. came to Weth. 1636; his ho-std. was a ho. and 3 acs. ld. on cor. now occup. by the Bap. Church, and, in 1640, bd. by Thos. Ufford's ho-std., S. and W. by ld. of Thos. Curtis; one of comm. to secure Rev. Mr. Haynes as minister, 1663; on comm. to settle W. line of Weth., 1670; dr. ld. in 1670 allot.; d. 25 Jan., 1681-2; in 1670, also the Town gave him 8 rods of ground near the meeting-ho. bd. S. and W. by highways, E. by George Wyllys (of late yrs. the Marsh place), N. by ld. of Sam'l Smith, (formerly Timothy Plumb's). This was to set a [joiner's?] shop on.

OLCOTT, THOMAS, of Htfd.; owned lds. on the Island, 1640.

PALMER, HENRY, in 1645 had a ho. and 3 acs. ld. on E. side High St. betw. John Deming, N., and Hugh Wells, S., which he exch. for one of Sam'l Boardman's on E. side Broad St. betw. Nath'l Foote's, S. and John Robbins, N.

PALMER, WILLIAM, the Settler, came to Plymouth, Mass., 1621, in ship *Fortune*; rec. his lds. in Weth., 1640, prob. was in W. several yrs. earlier; had ho. and 4 acs. ld. E. side Broad St. betw. Nath'l Foote's S. and John Robbin's, N. Part of this he sold to John Robbins, and part, in 1644, to John Root; was surveyor of highways, 1657; sexton, 1658.

PARKE, ROBERT, *Savage* says (III., 347) at Weth., 1639; freeman, Apl., 1640, "may have sent another besides his eld. s. William, some yrs. before he came to our shores as a permanent resident, for I have the best reason for thinking he had come in 1630, and went back the same yr., carrying an order by our [Mass.] Governor to his s. John in Eng., to pay money, which is in my possession and may be the earliest bill of exchange drawn on our side of the water; but was not guided by the decision of his son as to his plantation;" was freeman in Weth., 1640, or earlier; had a house and 3 acs. ld. at that time rec., on W. side Bell Lane, betw. the ho'd of Rich. Law (afterward John Talcott's and Capt. John Tinker's successively) on the cor. N. and Jasper Rawling's (afterwards Thos. Hurlburt's) on the S. This he gave to his s. Thos. He also had another ho'd, a ho., barn and 3 acs. ld. being the corner lot above ment. which he bo't of Capt Tinker, and which also he gave to his s. Thomas, in 1647, in which year he rem. to New Lond., where his barn was the first place of worship.

PARKE, RICHARD, bo't a ho'd of Rich. Belden on or before 28 Dec., 1643; a ho. and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  acs. ld. described thus: N. by Broad St.; E. by Leslie Bradfield's ho-lot; S. by Jas. Boosey's (late Matt. Mitchell) Plain lot; W. by road to the Plain.

PARKE, THOMAS, (s. of Robert, the Settler) fm. whom he rec'd the two ho-stds, described under Robert's name. These he sold to Mr. John Hollister, subsequently to 1647, except a portion in the rear of John Miller's, which he sold to Ab'm Elsen, who had bo't the Miller lot fm. Edward Vere; he was a taxpayer in 1649.

PARKER, "[ROBERT, of Weth." and RICHARD PAYNE, "of the same, certified that they are there inhabitants, 4 Sept., 1640."—These names are found in Attorney *Lechford's Ms. Note Book*, pub. in Vol. VII, *Trans. of Am. Aubig. Soc.*, p. 313.—*H. R. S.*]

PAYSON, EDWARD, and JAMES.—See *Poisson*.



PINSON, (*Pinchin* and *Pincin* and *Pyncheon*), ANDREW, was given ld. in lower part of the Plain, 1667; was given 12 acs. ld. at Hog Brook (Ry.-H.) in 1662; was recipient of Town aid to extent of 20s. "to relieve his necessity," in 1694; was Town-crier, 1666-7; d. 7 May, 1697.

PLUMB, (*Plum*) "Mr." JOHN, in 1641, rec. a ho'd which he had prob. owned some yrs. earlier, viz., a ho. and 18 acs. ld. on the N. side of Fort (now Prison) St., betw. Wm. Swayne's, Richard Gildersleeve's and George Hubbard's, E., and Pennywise, W., Edward Mason's on the N. This tract was afterwards owned by Gov. Thos. Welles, and now occup. in part, by the State Prison. The W. part ext. to The Coye, N. He came to W. fm. Dorchester, 1635, or early in '36; was an influential man; memb. of Gen. Ct. 1637, '41, '42 and '43; collector of Customs, 1644; rem. to Branford in 1646, where 15 Dec., 1645, it was voted "Jo. Plum shall keepe the Towne's booke."

PLUMB, TIMOTHY, had a "cellar" and 1 rood of ld. on the S. side of the road to the burying-gd. bd. S. by the highway connecting Main St. with the upper end of Broad St., in 1670, and prob. earlier. This he sold to Sam'l Smith in Dec., 1671, at which time a ho. had been erected, adjacent to, but not over the cellar. Many of the earliest dwellings in Weth. were cellars only, or "dug-outs" as they are now called, covered with logs and turf.

POCOCK, (*Peacock?*) JOHN, res. in Weth., Sept., 1674, where he bo't Nath'l Butler's ld. in the Ind. Purchase, (now Eastbury); was among the soldiers killed by the Ind. at Hadley, 19 Oct., 1675.

POISSON, (sometimes *Paysen* and *Poyson*) EDWARD, with his bro. (?) James, in 1708, bo't the John Benjamin triangular plot of  $\frac{1}{2}$  ac. with a "mansion ho." upon it, on N. W. side of street (Sandy Lane?); Thomas Standish on the N. and John Francis, S. E. The P.'s were prob. French Huguenots. James was a physician, and of Derby, Ct., in 1713.

POWELL, WILLIAM, dr. ld. in 1694 allot.—See *Genealogies*.

PRICHARD, (sometimes *Prigiotte*) ROGER, owned lds. in Weth. Great Meadow, 1642-3, in which latter yr. he prob. rem. to Springfield—for subsequent career see *Savage* III, 486.

RAWLINGS, (*Rawlins*) JASPER, fm. Roxbury, Mass., 1635 (?), came with wife, Joan, fm. Eng., 1632-3; his ho'd, a ho. and 3 acs. ld. rec. Meh. 1640-1, on W. side Bell Lane, betw. Rob't Parke's, N., and John Miller's, S.; sold to Thos. Hurlburt (?) abt. 1642.

RAYNOR, THURSTON, came with wife and 5 ch. fm. Ipswich, Eng., to Wat., Mass., 1634; thence, prob. in 1636 to Weth.; his ho'd rec. 1640, a ho. and 4 acs. ld. on W. side Broad St., at extreme N. end, and running thro' to Main St., S. by Sam'l Hubbard's ho'd; sold to Richard Treat, Nov., 1641; memb. Gen. Ct., 1638, '39, '40; rem. to Stamford, 1641; thence to Southampton, L. I., a few yrs. later.

RESCO, JOHN.—See *Rusco*.

REYNOLDS, (*Rennals*) JOHN, the Settler, sailed fm. Ipswich, Eng., prob. in 1634; settling at Wat., Mass., whence in 1635 or '36, he rem. to Weth.; thence,

1641, to Stamford; rec. his ho'd Meh., 1640-1, a ho. and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acs. ld. on E. side High St., Common, betw. John Gibb's, N. and Andr. Ward's, S.; sold to Mr. John Hollister. Sarah Reynolds (prob. his wife) d. at Stamford, 1657. Was he the J. R. cred. to Saybrook and later to Norwich?

REYNOLDS, JOHN, (s. John, the Settler), m. Naomi (dau. John and Ann) Latimer; in June, 1678, rec'd by gift fm. his moth-in-law, wid. Ann Latimer, 25 acs. ld. S. E. side Broad St. nxt. N. of John Betts' and next S. of John Latimer's; he d. 1682; his wid. m. (2) Philip Goffe.

REYNOLDS, JOHN, (s. of John and Naomi—ment. next above), b. 1674; dr. ld. in 1694-5 allot.; surveyor of highways, 1698-9; owned ld. in Ry-H. meadow, 1717, when a highway was laid across it; in Jan., 1700, it appears (fm. a writing dividing the ho'd formerly his father's) that he took  $13\frac{1}{2}$  acs. with ho. thereon on the N. side, and his bro., Jonathan took the S. part,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  acs. It also appears that their mother Naomi was then the wife of Philip Goffe.

REYNOLDS, ROBERT, shoemaker by trade; freeman at Wat., Sept., 1634; one of the five orig. memb. of the Weth. church, by dismissal fm. the church at Wat. 29 Meh., 1635; ret. to Boston, perhaps in 1640.

RICHARDS (Lieut.) JAMES, a prosperous meht. for many yrs. one of the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New Eng., prob. res. in Weth. before he res. in Htfd. In Oct., 1663, the Town voted to allow him "to sett his ho. two or three foot into the Street." This makes it appear that he had a ho'd in Weth. before he owned any ld. in Htfd., and this must have been within perhaps a yr. after he came to this Col. fm. Boston, Mass. He owned large tracts on the E. side the River, in addition to which, he began purchasing, in 1665 or earlier. His wife was a dau. of Wm. Gibbons, meht. and the richest man in Htfd. at that day.

RICHELLES, SIGISMUND, surveyor of highways, 1664-5; dr. lds. in 1670 allot.; in 1697, he was voted "no inhab." in Sept., 1664, he bo't Joseph Dickinson's ho'd lying betw. the two roads running S. fm. Broad S. and bd. by the S. end of Broad St. N. In 1671, he was the owner of all lds. formerly belonging to Nathaniel Butler. He came to Weth. before 1662, prob. as he then owned lds. on E. side River.

RILEY, ISAAC, (s. of John, the Settler) b. abt. 1661(?); hayward, 1691; dr. ld. in 1695 allot.; Sergeant, 1714; in 1719, bo't his sister's interest in ho'd lately their father's, on W. side Broad St.

RILEY, JOHN, the Settler, came to Weth. abt. 1645; bo't the James Boosey ho'd, formerly Robert Coe's (which see), Richard Treat adj. him on the N. In 1669, he obtained by exch. with Thomas Crouch, the latter's ho'd next betw. John Belden's, on S. E. side of Broad St. In May, 1673, he bo't of John Dickinson, who had rem. to Hadley, the latter's ho'd on N. W. side of Broad St. near its S. end, betw. John Belden's, N. W. side of Broad St. near its S. end, betw. John Belding's N. and Alex Keeney's and the Common and brook, S.; selectman, 1665-6; dr. ld. in 1670 allot.; d. abt. 1674.

RILEY, JOHN, (old. s. John, the Settler) b. 15 Aug., 1646; inher. the ho'd third described under his father's name above, part of which he sold to Jonathan Belden, in 1686; the residue (the S. part) to Stephen Chester, in 1695; dr. ld. in 1695 allot.; was gr. 20 acs. ld. in the West Division (New.) 1677, by the Town for saw-mill purposes, there being 3 others associated with him; wife was Lydia ———.

RILEY, JONATHAN, (s. of John, the Settler) b. 4 Mch., 1652-3, was given ld. at Ry-H. by the Town, 1685, 16 acs. at rear, or W. end of Ezekiel Buck's; fence-viewer, 1688, dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; fence-viewer for Ry-H. section, 1714; had, fm. his father, Lot No. 22 in Mile-in-Breadth, which he sold, 1681, to John Slead.

RILEY, JOSEPH, (s. of John, the Settler), b. 21 Oct., 1649; one of the co. of 4 to whom the Town, in 1677, gave a tract of 20 acs. ld. each, at Pipe Stave Swamp (now in New.) for saw-mill purposes—his bro. John being also one of the donees; dr. ld. in 1694 allot.

RISLEY, RICHARD.—See *Genealogies*.

RITCHELLS.—See *Richells*.

RIX, THOMAS, voted an inhab. 27 Dec., 1686; perhaps a s. of Thomas of Salem; if so, b. 26 Aug., 1655.

ROBBINS, JOHN, the Settler, "Gentleman," came to Weth. directly fm. Eng., 1638, or earlier. In Oct., that yr., he bo't fm. Mr. John Clark, one of the "adventurers," or orig. sett. of Pyquag, the latter's ho'd on E. side Broad St., consisting of a ho. barn and 3 acs. ld. betw. Robert Rose's ho'd, N. E., and William Palmer's, S. W.—and a few rods E. of entrance to the Plain. Clark had that yr. rem. to Quinnipiac. Robbins, soon after, bo't part of the Palmer ho'd. In 1640, or thereabouts, the Town gave him 3 acs. ld. on W. side Rose Lane (now Main St.) betw. the Rev. Rich. Denton's ho'd, N., and "ld. not given," S. He was dep. to Gen. Ct., 1643 and 1656-7; he d. 27 June, 1660; wife, Mary d. "middle Sept." 1659.

ROBBINS, Sgt. JOHN, (s. of Mr. John, the Settler) b. 1649; constable, 1678; dep. to Gen. Ct. 1687; dr. lds. in 1670 allot.; inher. (with his sister Comfort, wife of Theoph. Sherman?) his fthr's ho'd on Broad St.; sgt. in 1686; with his bro. Capt. Joshua, he inher. the tract of 80 acs. ld. gr. by the Town to their father, at Ry-H. on the W. side the road to Midd. ext. 70 rods W. where it was bd. by Common lds. of the Town, bd. N. by ld. of John Goodrich's heirs, and S. by Sam'l Boardman's, as described in 1695. John's part was the N. half. In 1682, he bo't of Theophilus Sherman, 11 acs. ld. in the Plain (now ppy. of Frank Robbins' ho'd) otherwise called "Egypt"; he d. 1689; his wid. dr. ld. in 1694 allot.

ROBBINS, JOHN, (s. Sgt. John) b. 1684; hayward, 1707; collector, 1710; he, with his bro., Joshua, inher. their father's ho-lot, it being that, in part, now constituting the ho'd of Frank Robbins, in "Egypt"; he d. s. p. Oct., 1712, his est. going to his bros., Joshua, Richard and Samuel.

ROBBINS, Capt. JONATHAN, (s. Capt. Joshua and Sarah) b. 1694; m. Sarah (dau. Capt. Robert, Jr.,) Welles, 21 Nov., 1728; inher. his father's "new ho. and

barn," in Egypt (as now called) and in 1721, bo't of John Wadhams, the latter's ho. and 7 or 8 acs. ld. in the same section, adj. on the N. and W.; d. 1728.

ROBBINS, Sgt. JOSHUA, (s. John, the Settler); fence-viewer, 1678; inher. S. half of the 80 ac. tract at Ry-H. given his father by the Town, and added 10 acs. to it on S. side, by exch. with Capt Rob't Welles; drew lds. in 1694 allot.; a piece of ld. belonging to heirs of Capt. Rob't Seeley, being 40 acs. next S. of the Leonard Chester mill-lot, was laid out to him in 1695; in 1679, he bo't 7½ acs. ld. in what is now known as "Egypt," formerly of the John Wadham ho'd; also part of Josiah Willard's ho'd on W. side Broad St., which he sold to Benj. Gilbert; he d. abt. 1700?

ROBBINS, Capt. JOSHUA, (s. Sgt. John), Lieut., 1698; deputy, 1702; Capt. of Train-band, 1703; selectman, 1706, 1711; inher. a part of his father's ho'd in Egypt, his bro. John sharing it; uncle, Sgt. Joshua, at this date (1689) owned ld. adj. on S.; in 1714, he inher. fm. his bro., John, ld. on S. W. side Broad St., next below his bro Samuel's; his wife, Sarah, after his dth. m. (2) Thos. s. of Capt. Roger Welles, 3 May, 1739.

ROBBINS, JOSHUA 3d, (s. of Capt. Joshua and Sarah) m. Sarah Bidwell, dau. of John, Jr., of Htfd., Sept., 1707, whose mother was Sarah Welles, dau. of Thomas; he inher. his father's ld. at Stepney (Ry-H.) and res. in former place, nr. the ho-std. of late "Squire" William Robbins; was on school-comm. at Ry-H., 1712; gd-juror, 1714.

ROBBINS, RICHARD, (s. of Sgt. John and Mary Dennison) m. Martha (dau. John and Elizabeth *Wright*) Curtis; res. Stepney, where in 1714, he was a fence-viewer; his father had inher. the 40 acs. ld. there (see Sgt. John, for description) and he, in 1714, (with his bros. Samuel and Joshua) div. their father's ho'd in Egypt.

ROBBINS, SAMUEL, (s. Sgt. John and Mary Dennison); hayward 1703; his wife was Lucy (dau. Capt. Samuel) Wolcott fm. whose wid. Judith, she rec'd a gift of lds. in 1715; in 1714, he and his bros. Joshua and Richard, inher. their fthr.'s ld. at "Egypt"; in same yr. he sold a dwell-ho. with 1 rood, 20 rds. of ld. on W. side road to Midd. bd. N. by Broad St. and S. by Wm. Goodrich to John Welles.

ROGERS, WILLIAM, owned 5 pieces ld. in Weth., 1640, or earlier, all adj. as many pieces of Thomas Wicks (or Weeks); hence, may have been W.'s s-in-law.

ROOT, JOHN, bo't Wm. Palmer's ho'd in Weth., 1644, or earlier; a ho., 3 acs. Id. on S. E. side of Broad St., next N. of Nath'l Foote's. At abt. the same time, he bo't part of Henry Palmer's ho-lot, with dwell-ho. next N. of the above; m. Mary (dau. Thos.) Kilburn and prob. soon rem. to Far.

ROSE, DANIEL, (s. Robert, the Settler), came to Weth. with his father fm. Wat., 1635, or fm. Eng., 1634; m. Elizabeth (dau. John, the Settler) Goodrich, 1664; fence-viewer, 1669; pound-keeper, 1680; dr. lds. in 1670 and 1694 allots.; bo't Hugh Welles lds. at Red Hill, E. side River, 112 acs., in 1663; bo't Thos. Couch's ho'd W. side Sandy Lane, 1666; bo't of Sam'l Wyllys, 1670, the Sherwood ho'd of 17 acs. on S. side of what is now Pratt's



Ferry road; sold  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acs. of this to Nath'l Foote, in 1683; gave his s. Jona, a ho'd on N. side of "road to Htfd." next W. to Steph. Mix,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acs., with ho. in 1711.

ROSE, DANIEL, (s. Daniel and Elizabeth), b. 20 Aug., 1667; m. Mary (dau. of 3d Nath'l) Foote, of Colchester, 14 May, 1706; hayward at Weth., 1695; his father gave him 12 acs. out of the Sherwood ho'd on S. side of present Pratt's Ferry Road, 1707.

ROSE, JOHN, (s. of Robert, the Settler; had 47 acs. ld. in Weth. 1647; rem. to Branford, 1644-5.

ROSE, JONATHAN, (s. Daniel and Margery) b. 20 Sept., 1679; m. Abigail (dau. Ebenezer) Hale, 26 Feb., 1707; hayward, 1701; fence-viewer, 1714; had by gift fm. his mother, 1711,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acs. ld. with ho. on N. side "road to Htfd." (Sandy Lane).

ROSE, ROBERT, the Settler, came fm. Ipswich, Eng., to America in 1634, then ae. 40 yrs. (acc. to *Savage*) with wife and 7 ch.; came to Weth. fm. Wat., 1635, or poss. direct fm. Eng., 1634; was one of the "Adventurers" of Pyquaug; Meh., 1640-1, rec. his ho'd on S. E. side of Broad St., betw. John Robbin's S. and Matt. Mitchell's (formerly Lieut. Rob't Seeley) N., a ho. and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  acs. ld. This he sold to his s. John, who sold it to John Latimer, who sold it to Jeremiah Drummer (of Boston) who sold it to Rev. Gershom Bulkeley, who gave it to his s. Edward; Mr. Rose was dep. to Gen. Ct. 1641-3; rem. to Branford, as one of its pioneers, 1644, where he d. 1664, his will appr'd 4 Apl., 1665. He also exch. 20 acs. of Plain ld. for a like quantity there, with John Robbins, 1641.

ROWLANDSON, Rev. JOSEPH.—See *Biography*, Vol. II.

ROWLANDSON, JOSEPH, (s. of Rev. Joseph) by his wife, Hannah (dau. of Phineas) Wilson of Htfd. he became possess. of a considerable est. inclu. the ho'd bo't by P. W. of Ann. Latimer, on the S. side of the street connecting meeting-ho. square with Broad St.; in 1693, he bo't part of adj. ld. of Lieut. John Buttolph, dec'd, and which the latter had bo't fm. John Coleman; the N. part of this he afterwards sold to Sam'l Butler, the rest to Cornet Sam'l Talcott. The Coleman lot was part of a tract of 4 acs. on N. E. cōr. of Broad and Short Sts., which earlier had been ppy. of Thurston Raynor. Sam'l Hubbard and Rich. Treat, and which John Coleman had purchased fm. Treat for his s. John who had rem. to Hatfield. Mr. R. was licensed by the Andros Ct. to sell drinks, in 1688; he seems to have been a mcht. in 1689. The Town gr. him ld. at the River side (now The Cove) on which to erect a warehouse; it was "next below Mr. Stephen Chester's"; he dr. lds. in 1694 allot.; d. 22 Jan., 1713.

ROUSE, THOMAS, warned out of Town, as "no inhab." 26 Dec., 1681.

RUSCOE, (*Rescue*, *Roscoe*) JOHN was prob. of Htfd., when in 1648, he was paid £4 on account of some work done and materials furnished for the Weth. meeting-ho.

RUSSELL, "Mr." JOHN, came fm. Cambridge, Mass., 1648-9; in 1649, m. Dorothy (wid. of Rev. Henry) Smith, and occup. the ho-std. of dec'd; rem. to Hadley, 1659, where he d. 8 May, 1680, ae. 83; by a former wife he had sons, (Rev.) John and Philip. Either he, or his son John, in May, 1660, rec. the Sgt. John Strickland ho'd, as having been given him by the Town. The Rev. Henry Smith ho'd was convey. to Gregory Wilterton, May, 1665.

RUSSELL, Rev. JOHN, (s. of Mr. John above) came to Weth with his father; for biog. see Chapt. VIII and *Genealogies*; rem. to Hadley, 1659; in May, 1660, he rec. the John Fletcher ho'd ext. fm. Broad St. westerly to Bell Lane, and bd. N. by Fletcher's Lane. The Town gave him (as he caused to be entered of rec.) what had orig. been the ho'd of Sgt. John Strickland on the W. side of Broad St. betw. that of James Boosey, dec'd, N. and Rich. Treat, Sen., S., and this he rec. at the same time. But I find no note of the Town granting this place to him, nor any rec. of forfeiture fm. Sgt. Strickland to the Town. Perhaps, this should be John Russell, Sen. In 1660 he convey. 20 acs. ld. in the South Field to John Latimer; he d. 10 Dec., 1692.

RUSSELL, JOHN, (perhaps the Sgt. John, s. of Philip of Hadley, s. of Mr. John and bro. of Rev. John of Weth. and Hadley). If so, his mother was Joanna (dau. of Rev. Henry) Smith, and whose mother, Dorothy, m. (2) Rev. John's father. Philip had a s. John, b. at Hadley, Jan., 1667; and Rev. John also had a s. of the same name, but says he d. 1670. This John of Weth. dr. ld. in 1694 allot.; was constable, 1703; on school comm., 1712; Sgt. 1714; in 1692 he bo't of Daniel Graves of Springfield, ld. on the E. side Broad St. betw. Joseph Riley and Wm. Warner on the N. and John Wadhams, S. In 1702, he annexed to this by purchase fm. Joshua Robbins, on the S.

SADDLER, JOHN, bo't Sam'l Clarke's ho'd on W. side High St., 1642, or earlier; it was next S. of Richard Wescott's; he mort. it to Will. Gibbons of Htfd., Oct., 1642; also, in 1642, or earlier, he bo't a ho'd fm. Edward Vere, or Veir. In 1670, he dr. ld. as a ho-holder living in W. side the River; hence *Savage* and others err in supposing him to have lived on the E. side the River.

SCOTT, EDWARD, sold his ho'd, a ho., barn and 4 acs. ld. to Leonard Chester, on or before 22 June, 1646, bd. by Broad St., E., highway, W., ho. lot of Nath'l Dickinson, N., the Swamp, which is Common, S.; 10 Apl., 1653, bo't of Rich. Hall, a ho-lot  $2\frac{1}{4}$  acs. bd. Fort St., N., highway, S., John Goodrich, Thos. Wright and John Stoddard, E., Robert Francis and Thos. Standish, W.; was prob. a joiner, or helper abt. the meeting-ho., 1648.—See *Savage*: Was this man murdered by Inds. at Far. 1657? See Porter's acc't and *Col. Rec.*, I., 294.

SCRANTON, NATHANIEL, (see *Genealogies*, Vol. II) d. Weth. 13 Mch., 1693, giving his est. to Will. Goodrich; he was a hayward, Aug., 1689.

SEELEY, Lieut. ROBERT, one of the "Adventurers," at Pyquaug, for biog. see *Genealogies*, Vol. II.; he took up a ho-lot on the E. side Broad St. of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  acs. ld. described, when he sold it (prob. 1638) to Mr. Matt. Mitchell, as bd. N. E. by the Plain, S. W. by Robert Rose's ho'd, S. E., by sd. Rose's Plain lot. When Seeley left Weth. to go to New Haven, 1639, he was entitled to share in the undivided lds. of Weth. but they were not assigned

until 1695, after his dth. when Sgt. Joshua Robbins bo't the right fm. Seeley's heirs, and had the ld. (40 acs.) laid out next S. of Capt. John Chester's mill lds.

SENSION, (a corruption of *St. John*, or *Fr. Saint Jean*) MATTHIAS, lived first at Dorchester, Mass., then at Windsor; was at Weth. as early as 1648, if not earlier. In Feb., 1658, Thomas Wickham, of Weth., rec. a ho. and "garden plot," which he had bo't of Matthias Sension, late of Weth. and which he had prob. bo't several yrs. before, as Sension rem. to Norwalk, abt. 1654. This lot was at the extreme N. part of the Common (by the present Cove), the Common bdg. it W. and E., Thomas Curtis, S., and Thos. Tracy, W.

SEYMOUR, ZACHARIAH, (s. of Richard, of Htfd. and Far.) came fm. Far. to Weth. prob. abt. 1680, as in Nov. that yr. he bo't Sgt. John Nott's  $\frac{1}{2}$  ac. ho-lot on the W. side of Burying-yard Lane, and adj. the W. side of the burying-gd. as it then was; sold to Andr. Attwood, 1697; was collector, 1693; drew lds. in 1694; was gr. permission to set up a fulling-mill, 1697.

SHERMAN, EDWARD, came fm. Wat. 1635; took up a ho-lot of 3 acs., on E. side High St. betw. Rich. Crabbe's, N., and John Sherman, S. This, with a ho. and barn, he gave to his s. Samuel, in Apl., 1641; rem. to New Haven (?) 1639 and d. there, an aged man, 1641. This name is sometimes erroneously called Edmond.

SHERMAN, REV. JOHN, (s. of Edward, above ment.) came to Weth. with his father, 1635, fm. whom, perhaps, he rec'd the ho-std. which, in 1640 or thereabouts, he sold to Thomas Bunce. It contained 3 acs. and was next S. of that given by Edward Sherman to his s. Samuel. When Bunce rec. it, Rich. Belden owned next S., Rev. John S. rem. to Milford, 1639. See notice of him in Chapter VIII.

SHERMAN, SAMUEL, (s. of Edward, ment. above) his father gave him a ho. on the E. side High St.—which see described under Edward's name. Samuel sold it to John Talcott, in Meh., 1643, at which time Charles Tainter owned next N.; he rem. to Stamford, as one of its pioneers, 1640.

SHERMAN, THEOPHILUS, (s. of the Samuel ment. above?) b. 28 Oct., 1643, seems to have become a permanent res. of Weth. as early as 1673. I suppose this to be the same whom *Savage* locates in Stratford and that he rem. thence to Weth. In Jan., 1673-4, he had rec. a tract of 13 acs. at extreme S. end of the Plain, the ho-lots of Rich. Treat, John Betts, John Robbins and Nath'l Graves adj. him on the N., the highway, E., Joshua Robbin's, S., John Graves and John Wadhams, W. The same rec. also states, that this ld. was set out as his wife's portion, as an extract fm. the Court recs. "dated July 9th, 1667," shows. This ld. seems to have been inher. by Comfort Robbins, dau. of John Robbins, the Settler, fm. her father; hence it seems that Theophilus Sherman's wife was Comfort Robbins.

Mr. Sherman owned much land on both sides the River. In 1673, he bo't of "Mr. Thos. Welles, of Stratford," his tract of 358 acres, E. of the River. In the same yr. he bo't of John Curtis, his ho'd of 6 acs. at the extreme N. end of the High St. Common on the E. side. He bo't Hugh Makie's (Mackey's) lot of 6 acs. on the W. side the Midd. road, in 1682; and dr. lds. in 1694 allot. He sold the Curtis ho'd to Henry Buck, in 1675, after which, perhaps, he res. on the Makie lot.

SHERWOOD, THOMAS, arr. fm. Eng., at Boston in 1634, thence, prob. in the following yr. rem. to Weth., where he took up a ho-lot of abt. 8 acs. on S. side of what is now the Pratt's Ferry road, upon which he built a ho. and barn. He was a carpenter by trade, 48 yrs. old and had a wife and ch.; he sold his place and his lds. in the "Longe Meadow" and on the E. side the River, to Geo. Wyllys, Esq., of Htfd., Mch. 25, 1640, for £150. It adj. Thos. Morehouse's ho'd on the E. (or W.?) and Sam'l Smith's meadow and the Church land on the W. (or E.?) ; or, as elsewhere appears. Thos. Olcott's was next W., and James Boosey S. He rem. to Stamford, 1640 or '41, and fm. thence to Stratford, or Fairfield, in which vicinity are many of his desc'ts.—See, also, *Savage*, IV. 80.

SKINNER, JOHN, bo't ld. of Stephen Hollister in 1683, but I fail to find whether he lived in Weth.; was prob. a s. of John of Htfd.

SIMKINS, VINCENT, of Stamford, in 1641, is cred. by Huntington, in his hist. of that Town, on the auth. of *Chapin's Glast. Centenn.* (in which the name is given as "Smiking," thus adopting *Hinman's* error) as having gone to S. fm. Weth. There is no evidence of this, and *Hinman*, whom Chapin quotes as his auth. makes no such claim. See also, *Savage*, IV., 101; he d. 1653, invent. of est. prob'd 1656; his wife was a dau. of Henry Ackerly of S.

SLADE, (sometimes *Slead*) JOHN, was given 6 acs. ld. in Oct., 1676, by the Town, on "W. side of Ry-H. betw. the Common fence and Besit highway," and next S. of the lot given to Ezekiel Buck, which was on the S. cor. of a road running easterly. In 1681, he bo't lot No. 52(22?) in the West Division, which belonged to Jonathan Riley.

SMITH, BENJAMIN, (s. of Richard and Rebecca (?) or of Richard, Jr.?). Was he the Benj. who with Joseph and Sam'l Smith, in 1692 gave ld. for the meeting-ho. at Naubuc?

SMITH, BENJAMIN, (s. of John and Mary Partridge) b. 1673, bo't of Daniel Dickinson, in Feb., 1708-9, his ho'd on the E. side Broad St. betw. James Treat's, N., and Lieut. John Coleman's, S., 3 acs. with bldgs.; was fence-viewer, 1702 and 1712; gd.juror, 1715.

SMITH, Rev. HENRY,—for *biog.* see Chapter VIII; his ho-std., which he prob. took up as the first occupant in 1638, was a tract of 5 acs. on E. side High St., bd. S. by the Burying-gd. and the lane leading into it, N. by John Hopkins' (orig. Andrew Ward's) ho-lot, and E. by Geo. Wyllys, (formerly Edmond Wood's) meadow. This was the description in 1648. Afterwards, as it seems, Mr. Smith's s. Sam'l became possessed of one ac. of his father's ho'd, and was given enough more, on the S. side, by the Town, to make a ho'd of 4 acs. This latter was sold by him to Sam'l Boardman. The wid. of Rev. Henry Smith, with her 2d husband, John Russell, Sen., in May, 1665, sold the Rev. Henry's late ho'd to Gregory Wilterton, who sold it to Sam'l Hale, Sen. Before this, the Hopkins' place next, N. had become Hugh Welles,' who convey. it to Thomas Wright.

Wright appears to have been the next owner of the Samuel Smith place, tho' I find no rec. of the transfer by Sam'l Boardman to him. Wright gave the place to his son, Joseph. The latter gave it to the Town, in exch. for the Town's lot (whereon the school-house stood), abt. where the ho. now occup.



by Austin Robertson stands. Joseph Wright then exch. this last lot with Hugh Wells for the latter's ho'd above ment. Then the Town gave its lot, which it had got fm. Jos. Wright, to Sam'l Hale, in exch. for the latter's ho'd, above ment. In this way the Rev. Mr. Smith's ho'd became, in 1665, the parsonage lot of the Town.—See further, Notices of Ministers, Chapt. VIII.

SMITH, JOHN, (s. of Samuel, the Settler) b. in Eng. (?) or b. in Weth. (abt. 1636?) came to Weth. with his father, fm. Wat. in 1635 (unless b. there, as above queried, in 1636); rem. fm. Weth. to Hatfield with his father, 1659; where he m. 1663, Mary (dau. Wm.) Partridge of H.; he was killed by Inds. in Hatfield meadow 30 May, 1676. In Dec., 1668, he, with his bro., Lieut. Philip, bo't fm. their father, the ho-std. of 3 acs. on the W. side of Broad St., between that of the heirs of John Latimer S., and John Kilbourn N.; the W. or near end fronted on Back Lane, S., bd. by New St. (now discontinued), W., and Luke Hitchcock's place, N. The Town also gave him 2 acs. on the opp. or W. side of New St. running W. to Back Lane. This was bd. S. by Michael Griswold's ho'd and N. by John (?) Chester's lot. He early rem. to Rocky Hill, where he was one of the very first sett., on ld. gr. him by the Town in 1661 and '67; in Dec., 1672, the Town gave him 20 acs. by the River's side at Ry-H., being a tract by The Landing, out of which 5 acs. was reserved to the Town for a ship-yard, and the use of the public, Smith agreeing to maintain the meadow gate, etc.; he d. 1673 (?); he left wid. Mary and dau., wife of Wm. Clark (?). His sons, John of Hadley and Benjamin, were the owners of ld. in Weth., John selling his interest therein, in 1710, to Thos. Dickinson.

SMITH, JOHN, of Hadley (s. of the preceding) was, with his bro. Benjamin, the owner of lds. in Weth., John selling his interest therein, in 1710, to Thos. Dickinson.

SMITH, JONATHAN, (s. of Joseph and Lydia Wright) b. before 1645, prob.; pound-keeper, 1665-6; dr. ld. in 1670 allot.; fence-viewer, 1672 and 1689; dr. lds. in 1694 allot.; on school comm. at Ry-H., 1712. [*Query*—was not this the Jona., who was s. of Rich. and Rebecca?] See below.

SMITH, JONATHAN, (s. of Richard and Rebecca). In 1662, his father gave him *all* his real est. in Weth., inclu. the ho'd on the W. side Rose Lane, now Main St. betw. the Town-lot (abt. where Austin Robertson's present res. is), on the N., and Sam'l Wright's on the S. He afterwards sold this place to sd. Wright, and rem. to Naubuc, where he assisted, 1691, in bldg. the first meeting-ho.—See *Col. Rec.*, II., 225.

SMITH, JOSEPH, (s. Richard and Rebecca?) m. Lydia (dau. Thomas) Wright, abt. 1653?; res. Midd. for 2 or 3 yrs. prior to 1654-5. In 1655 rec. a ho'd which his father-in-law had given him, being 2 acs. out of the orig. Sam'l Hale ho'd. on W. side Main St.

SMITH, JONATHAN, dr. lds. 1670 and '94; pound-keeper, 1665-6; fence viewer, 1672 and '89.

SMITH, JOSEPH, (s. of Richard, Jr. (?)) joined with his bro. Benjamin, in a deed, giving ld. for a meeting-ho. to the proposed new Town at Naubuc. Sam'l

Smith and wife, Jane, and John Hubbard, with his wife, Mary, gave ld. at the same time, for the same purpose, and it looks as if Benjamin and Joseph were bros. They may have been sons of Samuel, instead of Richard. The ld. seems to have been taken of tracts belonging to John Hubbard and Sam'l Smith. J. S. was collector, 1685; fence-viewer for E. side River, 1689.

SMITH, WID. MARY, gave ld. to her s-in-law Wm. Clark, June, 1694. Se may have been the wid. of Joseph (next above); or may have been that Smith whose *first* husband was Matthias Treat. If the latter, she was a dau. of Rich. Smith. Poss. she may have been wid. of Samuel, s. of Philip.

SMITH, PHILIP, (s. of Samuel, the Settler and Elizabeth) b. abt. 1633; m. Rebecca (dau. Nath'l) Foote; rem. to Hadley with his fthr., 1659-60, was there a prominent citizen and lieut. in Ind. campaign—and as Mather expresses it, was "murdered with an hideous witchcraft," 1685.—See Chaper XVII, Vol. I., for details. In 1659 his father gave him a ho'd W. side of Broad St. of 3 acs. being formerly of John Edwards, lying betw. that first owned by Sam'l Smith, N., and that of John Evans, Gentleman, afterwards of Sam'l Martin, S. He and his bro. John afterwards bo't of their father the ho'd of 3 acs. adj. on the N. which they rec. in 1668.

SMITH, RICHARD, the Settler, was in Weth., 1646, or earlier, when he was one of those bound to maintain the Great Meadow fence; prob. was an old man at that time; for in 1648, or thereabouts, a gd-son(?) of his, bearing the same name, m. Mary (dau. Richard?) Treat, Jr. He may have been the R. S., who was at Taunton, 1638, or of Ipswich, 1642.—See *Genealogies*.

SMITH, RICHARD, "of Pequot [New Lond.] Weaver," was adm. inhab. of Weth., 24 Feb., 1656, and, on same day, as an inducement for him to carry on his trade at W. the Town gave him a ho-lot "abutting on Htfd. way, next to Goodman Wadhams."—W. T. V., I., 49. This is prob. the same lot which a Rich. Smith, in 1658, sold to his s-in-law, Matthias Treat; being a ho'd of 2 acs. with a barn on it, and bd. E. by the Street (Sandy Lane?), S. by ho-lot of Clement Chaplin, W. and N. by Wm. Goodrich's. If so, Richard Smith, weaver, must have been an old man when he came to W., for Matthias Treat had a ch. (Henry) b. as early as 1649.

SMITH, RICHARD, Sen., (s. of Richard Smith, the Settler) b. abt. 1616, that is, if he be the one who, in Aug., 1682, testified that he was then 66 yrs. old; m. Rebecca (dau. Richard?) Treat. In Oct., 1649, one Richard Smith rec'd by gift, fm. his fthr. "Mr. Treat" a ho'd, being a ho. shop and 3 acs. ld. on W. side Rose Lane (now Main St.) betw. that of Will. Smith, N., and that of John Elsen's heirs, S. The "Mr. Treat," in question, must have been Richard, Sen. tho' he has not been cred. with having a dau. of that name; it certainly could not have been Matthias; R. S. was collector, 1667; and in 1672 was gr. forescore acs. ld. at Nayaug.

SMITH, RICHARD, JR., (s. Richard and (Rebecca?) called by James Boswell, in his will of date 1660; his "Kinsman," and Boswell gave him his 165 acs. ld. (orig. the Thurston Raynor ppy.) on the E. side the River. He, or a s. Richard, also bo't, in 1689, the John Sherman tract of 240 acs. on that side, which was adjacent to the other on the N. In 1664, he bo't James Wright's tract of 150 acs. orig. John Reynolds'; in Feb., 1673-4, he was ferryman and taverner, the ferry connecting with the New London road.

SMITH, SAMUEL, the Settler, called "the Fellmonger," came fm. Ipswich, Eng., to Wat., Mass., in the *Elizabeth*, in 1631 ae. 32, with wife, Elizabeth, ae. 32, and 4 ch.; fm. Wat. to Weth., in 1635, or late in '34; took up a ho'd on W. side Broad St. betw. Kilbourn's N., and John Edwards, Sen., S., 3 acs. on which he builded a ho. being on ld. of Comstock, Ferre & Co., lately the Col. John Chester place. This he sold, in 1688, to his sons Philip and John. In Oct., 1646, or earlier, he bo't of John Hollister, Sen., the John Gibbs pl. a ho'd of 4 acs. on E. side High St., betw. Thos. Bunce's, N. and sd. Hollister's, S. This he sold to Rich. Belden. A few yrs. later he bo't the John Edwards ho-std., above ment., which he sold to John Latimer, in 1660. Abt. this time (in 1659) he bo't fm. Sam'l Boardman, the John Reynolds ho'd on E. side High St., which he subsequently sold to Benoni Blackleach, but bo't it back again. He, also, bo't Blackleach's and Lieut. Samuel Welles' lds. on E. side the River and Tim. Plumb's ho., cellar and  $\frac{1}{4}$  ac. ld. by the meeting-ho. in 1671. [*Query*.—Was not this purchaser of the three last named lots, *another* Sam'l Smith?; perhaps a Samuel, Jr.]; he frequently held the office of deputy and townsman, before his removal with his fam. in 1659-60, to Hadley, and was an influential man there, where he d. abt. 1680.

SMITH, SAMUEL, is called, in the recs. "Old" Sam. Smith, in 1673-4, at which time he owned ld. by the highway, "at the Dirty Hollow, at the lower end of the Meadow." It does not seem that this reference was to Samuel, the Settler, since he had rem. to Hadley, fifteen yrs. before.

SMITH, SAMUEL, (s. of Samuel, the Settler and Elizabeth) b. Eng. abt. 1625; may be (instead of his father) the Samuel, who, 1659, bo't the John Reynold's ho'd E. side High St. (see, under Sam'l Smith, the Settler); also, it may be that he was the purchaser of Wm. Plumb's ho-lot, by Weth. meeting-ho. in 1671, selling it 1713 (then describing himself as of Glast.) to Wm. Nott. If so, his wife was Jane; Benjamin and Joseph were his bros., and he and they, in 1692, donated the ld. for the first meeting-ho. in Glast. Judd (*Hist. Hadley*) supp. that Sam'l Smith, s. of Samuel, the Settler, rem. to New Lond. and thence to Virginia, and he does not give to the elder Samuel any sons Benj. or Joseph.—See next below—or this may have been a s. of the "Old Samuel" ment. above.

SMITH, SAMUEL, m. Jane ———, with whom, 1692, he joined in a deed donating ld. for the first meeting-ho. in Glast.; he seems to have been the father (or bro.?) of Benjamin and Joseph Smith, who gave ld. at same time and for same purpose; he dr. lds. as a res. of Weth., 1694—or, perhaps this was the one ment. next below. *Chapin* (whom *Savage* endorses) makes this Samuel and Joseph and Benjamin all sons of Richard, Jr., but I do not find that any Rich. Smith ever owned this ld., while *Samuel* did.

SMITH, SAMUEL, (s. Rev. Henry and Dorothy), b. 27 Jan., 1638-9; m. (acc. to Goodwin's *Notes*) Mary (dau. James Ensign, of Htfd., abt. 1662; inher. share in his father's est. in Weth.; he, (or perhaps it was one of the other Sam'l Smiths) bo't, or had given to him by the Town, the 4-ac. ho-lot adj. that of the Rev. Henry Smith, on the S. It was taken out of the N. side of the meeting-ho. square, and he sold it to Samuel Boardman. Mr. Judd thinks he rem. to Northampton in 1666, and to Hadley abt. 1680. But, he might easily have remained in Weth. and been lost sight of among the other Sam'l Smiths there.

SMITH, WILLIAM, the Settler, came to Weth. abt. 1645, prob.; rec. his ho'd Mch. 1, 1647-8, a ho. and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acs. ld. on W side Rose Lane (now Main St.) and running W. to New St. (now discontinued), bd. N. by Clement Chaplin, and S. by Richard Smith's; he is said to have rem. to Midd. abt. 1650, and to Far. abt. 1655. He m. Elizabeth (dau. Timothy?) Stanley, in 1644.

SMITH, WILLIAM.—(See *Genealogy*.)

STANDISH, THOMAS, the Settler, was, perhaps, at Weth. at the beginning of the settlement, certainly was there in 1637, when he was one of the soldiers in the Pequot campaign. His ho'd, as he described it, 1641, was a ho. and 3 acs. ld. on S. E. cor. High St. and the road to the upper meadow (now the road to the Landing-place). John Deming, Sen., adj. him on the S. and to him he convey. this ho'd. He then bo't Andrew Langdon's ho'd, near the junction of Fort (now Prison) St., with Sandy Lane, abutting on both those streets. When Nott's Lane was laid out, it was called Standish's Lane; he was on a comm. to procure minister, 1665; dr. lds. 1670; d. 1692, leaving a wid. Susanna; in 1661, he bo't a ho'd of John Latimer, adj. Rob't Francis, which he sold to Thos. Merritt.

STANDISH, THOMAS, (s. of Thomas, the Settler and Susanna); in 1718 he bo't of John Francis the latter's  $\frac{1}{2}$  ac. ho'd in the fork of roads formed by Fort (now Prison) St. and Sandy Lane—in order to enlarge the ho'd on the S. which he had inher. fm. his father; his dau., Eunice, m. Jacob Williams.

STANFORD, NATHANIEL, sold to Leonard Chester's wid. abt. 1653, a "piece of ho-lot" which he had bo't of John Coultman, formerly Thos. Hurlburts', next S., of Thos. Curtis'; sd. Courtlman adj. on S. and highway E. and W.

STANLEY, NATHANIEL, of Htfd., m. Sarah (dau. Lieut. James) Boosey, Jr., of Weth. by whom he inher., in 1685, sd. Boosey's ho'd on E. side Broad St. which he gave to his dau., Mary, wife of Nath. Hooker (see elsewhere for the acc. of the former controversy of Hooker *vs.* Weth.); he (or his wife) also inher. one-half of the other James Boosey's, Jr., ho'd on the W. side Broad St., the other half going to another dau. Mary (wife of Lieut. Sam'l) Steele.—See *Savage*, IV., 165, for ch.

STEDMAN, Lieut. JOHN, came fm. Htfd., prob. 1669, was adm. inhab. of Weth. 30 Jan. 1671-2, at which time he was the owner of ld. purchased of John Cherry; he was Lieut. of the Htfd. Co. troop of dragoons, July, 1675, a good officer; was killed in the Great Swamp Fight (Narragansett), 19 Dec., 1675.

STEDMAN, Ens. JOHN, (s. of Lieut. John), b. (says *Savage*), 5 Apl., 1651; bo't the ho'd of Thos. Hurlburt, Jr., on the W. side Bell Lane, in Feb., 1677-8; Thos. Hurlburt, Sen., adj. on W. and N.; he was prob. a butcher, as he was licensed, 1680, to set up a slaughter-ho. on Town ld.; in 1687 the Town gave him 30 acs. ld. on N. side of what is now Jordan Lane (which tract is now inclu. in Cedar Hill Cemetery); he dr. lds. in 1694; and appears to have owned the Thos. Couch ho'd, part of which he sold to Nath'l Butler, in 1678; he sold the Hurlburt ho'd to John Wyard, in 1690.



STERN, or Streen, PATRICK,—See *Chapin's Glast. Centennial*.

STEELE, Capt. JAMES, (s. of Samuel and Mary Boosey) Steele, b. at Far. abt. 1662; m. 19 July, 1687, Ann (dau. of Capt. Samuel) Welles; hayward, 1685; fence-viewer, 1691; inher. his father's ho'd W. side Broad St.; d. 15 May, 1713.

STEELE, Lieut. SAMUEL, (s. of John, of Far.) b. Eng.; m. Mary (dau. James) Boosey, of Weth., abt. 1651, and abt. same time took up his abode in Weth. In 1678, the Town allowed him to set his front fence (on W. side Broad St.) further into the street; in 1685, he, with Nath'l Stanley, his bro-in-law, inher. fm. James Boosey, the latter's ho'd on W. side Broad St. next N. of Richard Treat; d. 1685.

STEELE, SAMUEL, (s. of Lieut. Samuel and Mary) b. 1659,—(was this the one supp., by *Savage*, to have d. yg?); dr. lds. 1694; collector, 1714; bo't ho'd of heirs of Lazarus Hollister, 1714.

STILES, ISAAC, (s. of John, the Windsor Settler) was b. in Windsor; m. Hannah (dau. of Henry) Palmer of Weth., where he sett. and had from his father-in-law, in Mch., 1664-5, one piece of upland, 1½ acs. formerly John Wadhams', on W. side of present Sandy Lane, next N. of Emanuel Buck's; in 1673, he had fm. the Town 52 acs. "at the W. end of Weth. bds," abutting agt. Far. bds. W. and agt. lds. undivided, and the sides agt. Thos. Hurlburt's lds. N. and Thos. Kirkham's S.—W. T. V., II., 250; dr. lds. in Feb., 1670 allot. which he sold to Sam'l Curtis, 1673; in 1670, was a surveyor of highways. Abt. 1673, prob. rem. to Stratford, where he became the ancestor of the Stratford Stiles Fam.—See *Stiles' Conn. Stiles Family*.

STILLMAN, GEORGE, of Hadley, Mass., mcht. m. Rebecca (dau. Lieut. Philip) Smith, of H., but formerly of Weth. He came to Weth. 1708, or earlier, since he was a selectman in that yr. In 1711, he bo't of Geo. Buttolph and Elizabeth, his wife, their ho'd, formerly that of Lieut. John Buttolph, and earlier of John Coleman, S. side of present Pratt's Ferry Road and W. side of a highway running southerly therefrom. In 1715, he bo't fm. John Devotion, the taverner, the ho'd which the latter had bo't of Hez. Deming, formerly John Deming's on E. side High St., betw. Jonathan Bunces' N. and Lieut. Benj. Churchill's S. Mr. Stillman was a very wealthy and prominent citizen and official.

STODDARD, DAVID, (s. John and Elizabeth) bo't his bro.'s shares in their father's est. (at New?) 1719.

STODDARD, JOHN, the Settler, came to Weth. abt. 1636?; m. Mary (dau. Nath'l Foote) 1642; bo't the Richard Wastcoate (Wescott) ho'd W. side High St. S. cor. Fort (now Prison) St.; owned and operated the Leonard Chester grist-mill, after the latter's decease, and sold it to the Town, 1660; took it back, 1661; bo't Thos. Tracy's ld. in Pennywise, the same yr.; d. Dec., 1664.

STODDARD, JOHN, (s. of John, the Settler) b. 1646; surveyor, 1687; inher. his father's ho'd which he sold to Sam. Wickham in 1685; dr. lds. at the West Farm (New.) 1694, whither he rem; d. Dec., 1703; he m. Elizabeth (dau. Thomas) Curtis.

STODDARD, JOHN, (s. John and Elizabeth) prob. the J. S., who, 1720, was orig. sett. of Litchfield; in 1716, sold to his bro. David, his interest in their dec'd father's est.

STODDARD, JONATHAN, (s. John and Elizabeth); in 1719, sold to his bro. David, his interest in his father's est.

STODDARD, JOSHUA, (s. John, the Settler) b. 1648; dr. lds. in 1694 allot.; m. Bethia (dau. Richard) Smith; d. s. p. abt. 1725.

STODDARD, NATHANIEL, (s. of John, the Settler) prob. inher. his father's place at Pennywise, W. of the present Cove; gave it to his s. Joshua, in 1713.

STONE, Rev. SAMUEL, (s. of Samuel, of Htfd, the distinguished associate of Rev. Thos. Hooker). His mother was Elizabeth Allen of Boston and Samuel was b. 1649, as *Savage* thinks, which could hardly have been, since he was invited to the Weth. pulpit in Apl., 1666, at which time it was proposed to call the Rev. Gershom Bulkeley, with Mr. Stone as colleague, B. to have £70, and S. £40 per annum; upon a further vote, Nov., 1667, giving Mr. B. "six score" acres of ld. and Stone 100 acs., the Town's invitation to these two gentlemen was accepted and they prob. came hither before the beginning of the next yr. Mr. Stone prob. remained in Weth. until 1671. Mr. *Savage* must have been misinformed in supp. him to have been there in 1676, and then only; indeed, it is prob. that his dissipation had rendered him unfit for his chosen calling before the latter date. It was in a fit of drunkenness that he, 8 Oct., 1683, fell into the Little River, at Htfd. and was drowned. His name has evidently been confounded with that of the Rev. Mr. Stow—which see below.

STOW, Rev. SAMUEL, (s. of John) of Roxbury, Mass., was grad. at H. C., 1645; went to Midd. Ct. abt. 1653; supplied the Weth. pulpit some part of 1666 and occasionally afterwards down to 1672, perhaps later. But Midd. has best right to claim him as a res. tho. he was never sett. in the ministry there.

STRICKLAND, EDWARD (Edmond), owned ld. in Great Meadow, which he sold prior to 1640. (Was he a s. of John, the Settler? and did he go to L. I., with his father?)

STRICKLAND, EPHRAIM, (s. of Thwait?)—See *Chapin*, p. 193.

STRICKLAND, (*Stickland* and *Sticklion*) Sgt. JOHN the Settler, came fm. Wat., Mass., Mch. or May, 1635, fm. whose church he, with five others, were at that time dismissed, in order to form a new church in Conn. They all came to Weth. His ho'd was (Mch. 28th, 1640, when he sold it Geo. Wyllys, Eq.) a ho., barn and 3 ac. ld. W. side Broad St. betw. James Boosey's N. and Matt. Mitchell's S. Strickland was entitled to one of the three-mile lots on E. side the River, allotted in 1639, but he sold it to Mr. Wyllys before taking possess. thereof. It lay next to Htfd S. line. He rem. to L. I. (perhaps Huntington) soon after 1640. He fought in the Peg. campaign of 1637.

STRICKLAND, JOHN, (s. of Thwait?), b. 14 Feb., 1648(?), m. Hester (dau. Rich.) Smith; mort. his loom and gun to Thos. Wright, 2 Mch., 1670-1.

STRICKLAND, JONATHAN, (s. John and Hester) b. 18 Mch., 1685; rem. to Glast.; *Savage* says was a witness, 23 Jan., 1680, bro't to prove agt. John Hale, that he cursed King Charles.

STRICKLAND, THWAIT.—See *Chapin*, p. 193, and *Savage* IV., 224.

SWAYNE, (*Swaine*) WILLIAM, "Gentleman," fm. Lond. Eng. to Wat., Mass., 1635, ae. 50, came to Weth. in, or earlier than 1636; was one of the "Adventurers" there, and the ld. he took up there may have been that of the earliest of the Adventurers, viz.: John Oldham. His ho'd was a ho. and 3 acs. ld on the N. W. of High and Fort (now Prison) Sts.; his neighbor on the W. being Mr. John Plumb, and on the N. Richard Gildersleve. His 2 daus. were capt. in the Ind. attack on Weth., 1637; one of his two sons accompanied him to Branford in 1644, of which he was an orig. promoter; but, before he went he had rep. Weth. in both branches of the Gen. Ct.; he was a large ld-owner.

TAILOR.—See *Taylor*.

TAINTOR, CHARLES, ancestor of those of the name in Conn. had in 1643, a ho'd, which he may have owned earlier. It was a piece of 6 acs. ld. on W. side High Street. betw. John Deming's N. and Samuel Sherman's S., which he exch. in 1644, for one of John Talcott's, a 3 ac. piece on W. side High St. betw. George Hubbard's N. and Mr. Swaine's (the Corner.) S.—it was orig. the Guildersleve ho'd. Taintor sold it to Josiah Churchill, and soon rem. to Fairfield (?).

TALCOTT, ELIZUR, (s. of Samuel and gd-s. of John, of Htfd.) "Gentleman", b. 1669; in 1696 bo't Sarah Bishop's ho'd, having, the yr. before, sold his inher. interest in one of the John Talcott ho-stds.; wife was Sarah ———.

TALCOTT, JOHN, "Gentleman," ("The Worshipful" John) rec. a ho'd 25th day 12 mo., 1640, a ho. and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  acs. ld. bd. by Bell Lane, S. E.; Matt. Mitchell's ld. N. W.; ho-lot of Robert Parke, S. W.; Watering Lane, N. E. which he bo't of Richard Law. On 30th day, 11th mo., 1643, he rec. another ho'd bo't of Samuel Sherman, a ho., barn and 3 acs. ld. bd. High St., W., Great Meadow, E., ho-lot of Thos. Bunce' S., Charles Taintor's, N. In 1644, he obtained the Taintor ho-d adj. the last on the N. by exch. for the Rich. Guildersleeve ho'd which he had bo't the yr. previous. Both his High St. ho-stds. descended to his s. Capt. Samuel, of whom Maj. Wm. Talcott, who occupied one of them, was a lineal desc'd't. He res. Htfd. where and at Weth. some of his desc'd'ts became famous. Prob. Glast. contains more of his desc't's than any other township. His wife was Dorothy Mott; he d. Mch., 1660.

TALCOTT, Col. JOHN, (s. of the Worshipful John Talcott, Gentleman) b. in Braine-tree, Eng., abt. 1632; res. Htfd., where he d., July, 1688; was the father of Gov. Joseph Talcott. He was entrusted with the task of securing a minister for Weth., 1665, but I can not find that he, then or at any other time, res. in Weth.

TALCOTT, Dea. JOSEPH, (s. of John, "Gentleman," of Htfd.) b. Cambridge, Mass., prob. abt. 1634. He and his bro. Col. John, of Htfd., were the ancestors of

all the Talcotts of the U. S.; he m. Sarah (dau. Ebenezer) Deming, of Weth.; inher. 30 acs. ld. in the West Field, fm. his father, being the E. part of a tract of 42 acs. betw. Capt. Robt. Welles, S., and John Nott, N.; he was hayward, 1692; collector, 1703; lieutenant, 1714.

TALCOTT, Mr. SAMUEL, (2d s. of John, "Gentleman") b. Cambridge, Mass., 1635; by this father's will he inher. all the paternal acres in Weth. on both sides the River. Part of this was a ho'd whereon now stands the home of the late Maj. William Talcott, a lineal desc'd't of Samuel. By his mother's will (who was Hannah (dau. Hon. Elizur and Mary *Pyncheon*) Holyoke, of Springfield) Mr. Samuel inher. most of the household furniture, inclu. a silver beer-bowl, and other table-ware. He, also, bo't the Rev. Joseph Rowlandson ho'd. He was one of the most influential men in the Col. and as Capt. of Militia, often in active service; as also in civic offices of Town and Colonial trust.

TALCOTT, Cornet SAMUEL, (s. Capt. Samuel); bo't of his bro. Elizur, 1695, the ho'd of their father, which E. had inher.; he d. 1698.

TAPPAN, (*Tappin, Tapping*) Capt. THOMAS, prob. in Weth. as early as 1636; an orig. ppr. of several parcels of ld. there, which he sold to Geo. Wyllys, of Htfd.; when he rem. to Wepowaug (Milford) of which he was an orig. settler. His ho'd was on the W. side of Broad St. next N. of Nath'l Dickenson's; he also owned lds. on "The Island" which he sold to John Evans, Gentleman. Tappin's Hill, on the Jordan Lane takes its name fm. him; he rem. fm. Milford to Southampton, L. I., and thence to Branford, Ct. He (styled "Capt.") in Oct., 1686, gave to his sons Elnathan and James, lds. at Southampton "at Treatsworth, or Saggabomock" (*Bransford Rec.*, II., 45); he d. prior to 1688.

TAYLOR, JOHN, (s. William and Mary) b. 1649; one of the very earliest sett. at Ry-H., where his ho. on road to Rev. Gershom Bulkeley's mill, is ment. 1678.

TAYLOR, SAMUEL, (s. William and Mary) b. 1651; m. Mary (Henry and Sarah *Rusco*) Cole; in 1671, his father gave him a ho. and 2 acs. ld. near the Chester mill, which ho. his father had builded on ld. bo't of John Coltman; this ppy. Samuel afterwards sold to his bro. John.

TAYLOR, (*Tailor, Tayler*) WILLIAM, the Settler; had a ho-lot gr. him by the Town in Dec., 1649, on E. side Broad St., betw. the way into the meadow and lot formerly Hollister's rec. by him in 1663, as containing  $\frac{1}{2}$  an ac. and bd. in the rear (E.) by Ab'm Finch's ho-lot; S. W., and N. by Broad St. This he rec. 1663; but meantime a similar gr. was made him in 1656, and again 1663, so that it seems that but one of these, the last one, was executed; he also drew lds. in 1670, and 1694 allots.

There are indications that his wife Mary was a dau. of John Coltman, the schoolmaster and miller. In 1671, Coltman and wife gave Taylor two acres ld. bd. by a way betw. Coltman's ld. and the mill-lot, W., and the highway, or "Commons" E., and the Common, S., conditioned that Taylor build a house thereon at the W. end, within 12 mo.'s thereafter—which Taylor did, and gave it to his son.



THOMPSON, (*Tomson, Tompson*) JOHN, in Weth. 1640 prob. in 1636; had a piece of  $\frac{1}{2}$  ac. ld. and ho. bd. by the Green or Common, S. W., N. W. and S. E., and by the ho-lot of Thurston Raynor, S. E. This was a piece taken out of the public square in which the first meeting-ho. stood; the Town granting other lds. in this square, which much reduced its area, and changed its shape fm. the original square form, to its present shape. T. had another piece of 4 acs. with a barn on it, bd. by the Green or Common, E., "ld. ungiven," W., ho-lot of Clement Chaplin, S., Thomas Ufford's, N., (sold to John Westell [Wastall], both pieces, in 1641); he rem. to Stratford, of which he was an orig. founder, prob. in 1639.

TINKER, Capt. JOHN, had a ho'd and other lds. in Weth. before 1640. The ho-lot was on the E. side of the road to Matabesett (Midd.) next N. of Luke Hitchcock's, which was on the N. cor. of the way into Ry-H. meadow. The ld. afterwards became part of Philip Goffe's. Capt. Tinker seems to have rem. first to Windsor, abt. 1643, thence to Boston, Lancaster, and New Lond., respectively, the latter abt. 1658, and where he became one of the leading public men.

TOBE [*Toby?*] HENRY, dr. lds. in 1694 allot. as a "householder."

TOURTELOT, (*Turtloe, Tuttle?*), ABEL, prob. a French Huguenot; landed Boston, 1681; afterwards rec. at Roxbury. In 1694, the Town of Weth. voted him "no inhab."

TOUSLAND.—See *Toucey*.

TOUCEY, (*Tousy*, sometimes *Tousley*, and *Tousland*), "Mr." THOMAS.—See *Genealogics*.

TRACY, (sometimes *Trace*) Capt. THOMAS, res. Weth. in 1640, or earlier; carpenter, by trade—See *Geneal*. His ho'd on S. side of a road which for more than 200 yrs. past has been covered by the Conn. River, a road ext. E. fm. the extreme N. end of High St. Common. The Common bd. the Tracy lot at E. and, perhaps W. Thomas Curtis' ho'd was next S. Tracy rem. to Norwich, 1662, where he was a pioneer and prominent—and was the ancestor of many distinguished men in Conn. and New York States.

TRATT, a surname which appears often in the recs., but I can not find that it means any other than that of *Treat*, which is also, sometimes spelled *Tratt*, in the rec's. But see below.

TREAT, HENRY, (s. of Matthias) b. 1649; sold ld. to Will. Goodrich, 1671; rem. to Htfd. where he m. Sarah (dau. Edw'd) Andrews, abt. 1673; d. 1681.

TREAT, Lieut JAMES, (s. Richard, the Settler) b. 1634 (?) ; m. Rebecca (dau. John) Latimer, 1665; Lieut. in Ind. wars; d. 1709; in 1665, his father gave him both of ho-stds. on Broad St., besides much other ld. James occup. the ho'd on the S. cor. of road to the Plain; he bo't other lds. including Hugh Mackie's ho'd in 1692, being the cor. occup. by the late Russell Adams; also, the John Edwards ho'd in Broad St. in 1700; he had a grist-mill given him by his father; lost his ho. by fire in 1679, in consideration of which the Gen. Ct. gave him 200 acs. ld.; and in 1697 the Town gave him 10 acs. ld. at Two Stone Brook—(Griswoldville). He was on comm. to run line betw. Weth. and Midd. 1665; and was often a dep. to Gen. Ct.

TREAT, MATTHIAS, m. Mary (dau. Rich.) Smith, 1648?; bo't of his f-in-law, a ho'd which he rec. 12 Mch., 1657-8, at which date it incl. a barn and two acs. ld. bd. by the Street (Sandy Lane), E., Wm. Goodrich's ho-lot, W., sd. Goodrich, N., Clement Chaplins's ho-lot, S.; and, on same day John Latimer rec. a ho'd which he had bo't of sd. Treat, Anthony Wright and Sam. Belden, a "ho., cellar and orchard and ho-lot,"  $2\frac{3}{4}$  acs. ld.—See *John Latimer*.

TREAT, RICHARD, the Settler, b. Eng. came to Weth., prob. 1636 or '37, with wife, Alice, and several children, among whom was Robert, afterwards the Governor of Conn.; Richard bo't many tracts of ld. among others the ho'd of John Whitmore, being a ho., barn and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  acs. ld. which he rec. 6 Sept., 1641, bd. by the Common, a landing place and the ho-lot of Wm. Butler (late of Robert Bates) W., Francis Norton's Meadow, E., William Butler and Thomas Curtis', N., Thomas Whitway, Francis Norton, Rev. Rich. Denton, John Jessup and Thomas Coleman, S. Another ho'd, rec. 21 Oct., 1641, bo't of Matt. Mitchell, a ho., barn, corn-ho. and 3 acs. ld. bd. by Broad St., S. E., Rose Lane, N. W., ho-lot now, or lately, of Robert Coe, S. W., ho-lot lately of John Stricklion (Strickland) now of George Wyllys, Esq., N. E. This went to his s. Richard who sold it to Mr. John Hollister, 30 Nov., 1655. Another ho'd rec. same date, bo't of sd. Mitchell, which the latter bo't of Lieut. Rob. Seeley,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  acs. on S. E. cor. Broad St. and the Plain Lane. Another ho'd rec. 28 Nov., 1641, bo't of Thurston Raynor, a ho. and 4 acs. ld. bd. by Broad St. S. E., a Green or Common, N. W., ho-lot formerly Samuel Hubbard, S. W., Short St., N. E. This also went to his s. Richard, who sold it to Thos. Coleman, 1656; he also in 1659 bo't Rev. John Russell's ho'd adj. his own on the N. or W. side of Broad St. The Town gave him a farm of 900 acs. at Nayaug (So. Glast.) abt. 1652, wh. he gave to his s. Richard. He was an assistant at the Gen. Ct. and one of the grantees named in the Col. Charter of 1662; he d. 1669.

TREAT, RICHARD, (s. of Richard, the Settler) b. Eng. abt. 1620; m. abt. 1661. Sarah (dau. Thos.) Coleman; rec'd fm. his father, among other lds. a tract on the E. side the River, "at a place called Noyake [Nayaug, or So. Glast.] given by the Town to his father, for a farme." "The breadth by the River side, meadow and swamp, is 310 rods; fm. the River to an oke tree, being a white oke, is 286 rods, on the S. side of that farme. Upon this farme stands *his ho., and barne*, upon a parcell of upland weh lys within Mr. Holister's farme, containing 7 acs. more or less. The ends abut on Mr. Holister, N. and his owne ld. S., and the sides next the sd. Mr. Holister, E. and W." This entry is not dated, the same farm is ment. in Rich. Treat, Sen's will of Feb. 13, 1668. A few yrs. later the Town gave him an add. tract of 80 acs. at Nayaug; he was one of the earliest sett. of So. Glast.; his wid. d. 23 Aug., 1734, at the ho. of her s-in-law, Capt. Ephm. Goodrich, at Rocky Hill.

TREAT, (Gov.) ROBERT, (s. Richard, the Settler) b. Eng. abt. 1622, was one of the Weth. rate-makers in 1647; soon after rem. to Milford, where he had been a ld-owner as early, perhaps, as 1640; was one of the Colony's most distinguished civil and military officers—Chief in Command in important Ind. campaign—and Governor of the Colony; d. 1710, at M., ae. 89.—See *Genealogies*.

TREAT, SAMUEL, (s. of James and Rebecca) b. 1669; was, in Jan., 1697-8, one of the signers of the protest agt. the reckless appropriations by the Town; hayward, 1663.

TREAT, THOMAS, (s. Richard and Sarah) b. 1668; in 1691, assisted in forming the Church at Naubuc, whence it appears that he became an inhab. of Glast.; m. Gershom Bulkeley's dau, Dorothy, 1693.

TRYON, WILLIAM, dr. lds. in 1694, as an inhab. and paid taxes.

TURNER, ROBERT, bo't of David Buttolph of Simsbury, in Nov., 1698, the Lieut. John Buttolph ho'd in Weth., being on W. side of Broad St. at the upper end. In the following yr. he was chosen one of the listers of the Town; constable, 1704; school-comm., 1715.

TUTTLE.—See *Tourtlot*.

VERE, (*Veare*, or *Veir*) EDWARD, who was in Weth. before 1640, prob. several yrs. before, sold a ho'd to John Saddler, which the latter rec. before 1642. He also sold to Abr. Elsen, before 1646, the ho'd which had once been John Miller's, on Bell Lane; also, to John Robbins some yrs. prior to 1647, a ho. and 2½ acs. ld. bd. by a highway N., Common E., Swamp S. and Swamp or Common W. He rem. to Branford, 1644 or '45, where he d. 1645, leaving a small est. partly in each place. Left no ch.; willed his est. to Mr. [Rev. Henry?] Smith, of Weth. and Rev. John Sherman, of Branford; was prob. a carpenter by trade.—*Col. Rec.*, I., 462.

[VICARS, "WILLIAM, of Weth. upon the River of Conn., planter, a certificate that he is there inhabitant"—ext. from *Lechford's Note Book*, republished in *Transactions of Am. Antiq. Society*. Lechford was an Eng. attorney, who spent some time and did some bus. in Mass. and Conn. Colonies, while here.—*H. R. S.*]

WADDAMS, (*Wadhams*) JOHN, was in Weth., 1654, or earlier. In 1656, rec. his ho-lot given him by the Town, 3 acs. ld. next W. of Leonard Dix's on the S. side of Watering (now Back) Lane. In 1658, the Town gave him "that piece of ld. which he requested, if there be any"—*W. T. V.*, I., 65. In 1660 he had another ho-lot given him by the Town, of 3 acs., a triangular plot, bd. S. and W. by a highway and being next W. of the Clement Chaplin ho'd. In 1669, he rec. a tract of "three ho-lots," being 11 acs., 4 rods area, 42 rods square, bo't fm. Wm. Gull, and perhaps others. It was on the E. side the highway, in what is now called "Egypt," betw. John Latimer's S. E. and John Robbins N. W. Thereafter the stream flowing through to Fearful Swamp, was called Waddams Brook. Three yrs. later he rec. a triangular plot, on the W. ride the St. being 52 rods given him by the Town, and on which his house then stood. This was the plot next W. of the present "Larkins'" bridge.

In 1675, he bo't the Wm. Morris ho'd on W. side of Bell Lane. Shortly before this he sold his lds. on the E. side the River, given him by the Town to Ens. Ephm. Goodrich; he d. 1676. Some of his des. were among the early sett. of Goshen Ct.; some, at the present day, in Conn. are distinguished and wealthy.

WADDAMS, JOHN, (s. of John and Hannah and gd-s. of John, the Settler and Susannah) rec'd by gift fm. his father in 1711, one-half the latter's ho'd on W. side highway (in Egypt?); in 1716, he bo't the remaining half. Like his father, he was a weaver.

WAINWRIGHT, THOMAS, a servant of Rev. Henry Smith, in June, 1640.

WAKELY, JAMES, came fm. Htfd. to Weth., where, in 1652, or thereabouts, he m. Alice (wid. of James) Boosey. In Feb., 1652, he bo't of Mr. Thomas Welles (not the Governor) his ho'd on the E. side Broad St., betw. Thos. Coleman's N., and Abraham Finch's S.—and which had been earlier James Boosey's ho'd; he was constable, 1657.—See also, *Genealogies*.

WARD, ANDREW, came fm. Wat. Mass., to Weth. in the spring of 1635, being one of the five dismissed fm. the Wat. church to form a new church in the new Wat. as Weth. was then called. Was usually one of the magistrates of the Gen. Ct., until his rem. to Stamford, 1640-1. His ho'd was on the E. side of High St., betw. the Rev. Henry Smith's, S., and John Reynold's, N.—a ho., barn and 4 acs. ld. Sold to Gov. Hopkins, who sold it to Hugh Wells, who conveyed to Joseph Wright. From Stamford he went first prob. to Hempstead, L. I., thence to Fairfield, before 1653. [*Savage* says (IV., 406) "yet, in 1653, I find him again a rep. no doubt for Fairfield; but went, at last to the Dutch, and is ment. in Bolton's *Westchester* (I. 161) as a founder of great repute, but says he d. at F. 1659, and by wife Esther (who d. not early in 1677, as he says, but early in 1665) he supplies him with these ch., Edmund, William, Mary, Andrew, Samuel, Abigail, Ann, John and Sarah." Many of his desc'ts, among whom was Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, have been distinguished.

WARD, JOYCE, (wid. of Stephen?). The late Ex-Gov. Marcus L. Ward, of New Jersey, said in an autograph letter which I have seen, that he was a desc't of this wid. and that her husband's name was Stephen, and that he d. in Eng. She d. in Feb., 1641, leaving only personal est. In her will, made in 1640, she ment. a son Edward, in Rutland, Eng., also Anthony, William, Robert (who was put to a trade, and had £20 in Eng., in hands of his eld. bro.'s son—*Savage*, IV., 412) besides a dau., wife of John Fletcher, all apparently res. in Weth.

WARNER, DANIEL, (s. of Lieut. William and Hannah) b. 1680; owned the large brown ho. on the lower end, W. side, of Broad St., which was demolished abt. 30 yrs. ago, where the ho. of Eugene Adams now stands. The "mansion ho.", was built by Samuel Boardman; Warner was a lister in 1709.

WARNER, WILLIAM, Lieut. and Dea. (s. of Daniel of Ipswich, Mass.) m. Hannah, dau. John Robbins, Gent., 1667; was fence-viewer, 1671; a man of considerable importance, as soldier and civilian. In Feb., 1669-70 he bo't John Belden's ho'd on E. side Broad St., betw. Nath'l Graves N., and Thos. Curtis S., at which place he prob. lived. In 1692, he bo't the Graves ho'd, on Broad St., fm. Nath'l G.'s heirs, in Springfield and Hadley; he d. 1714.

WARREN, ABRAHAM.—See *Genealogies*.

WASTOLL, JOHN.—See *Westell*.



WATERHOUSE, (*Waterous* and *Watrous*) JACOB, came to Weth. before 1639, where he had a ho. and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  acs. ld. ext. fm. Sandy Lane S. to Fort St. (now Prison St.) N. The ho'ds of John Brundish, Thos. Wright, Rich. Mills and Rich. Westcott adj. it E., and Samuel Ireland's and Jeffrey Ferris', W. In May, 1647, he sold the ho'd orig. John Jessup's, on the E. side High St. to Will. Colefax. Will. Cross bdg. it N. and Josiah Churchill, S. He rem. with family to New Lond., 1645, and was a founder of that town.

WEEKS, THOMAS.—See *Wicks*.

WEEDE, JONAS, came to Weth. fm. Wat. 1635, whence he was one of the five dismissed in May of that yr. to form a new church on the Conn. River. His ho'd was a ho. and 7 acs. ld. at the N. end, on the E. side of what is now the High St. Common. It was so far N. in fact, that at the present, most of it is in the River, or in the adj. "Flats." The Public Landing Place was then there, and Weede's ho'd is described as bd. N. by the "way to the harbor." Fletcher's meadow-lot was E., Thomas Curtis' ho'd (earlier John Livermore's) S., the Landing Place, W. He rem. to Stamford, prob. 1640; sold his place to Matthias Sension (St. John) at abt. that date.

WELLES, Mrs. ELIZABETH, second wife and wid. of Gov. Thomas Welles, rec. her 52 ac. lot, next Far. bds. 31 Jan., 1671. She was a sister of John Deming, the Settler, and was the wid. of Nath'l Foote, when the Gov. m. her.

WELLES, HUGH, came to Weth. prob. abt. 1645; his wife was Mary (dau. Will.) Rusco of Htfd. He was one of the most important men in the Town, especially in the laying out of lds. etc.; recorder, 1659; had ho'd as rec. 1649,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ac. ld. bd. N. E. and S. by highways, lds. of Will. Goodrich and John Westell, W. Another ho'd at same date was a tract of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acs. on E. side of what in late yrs. has been known as Back Lane, a road, since discontinued, thro' the swale betw. Main St. and Back Lane, bdg. it E. Thos. Hanchett's ho'd bd. it S. In 1667, he was Sgt. of the Trainband, also Town-crier; was chosen to beat the drum on Sabbath days. In 1678 was Ensign. In 1665 bo't the ld. with school ho. upon it, which is now the ho'd next S. of the Silas Deane place, on Main St.; d. 1678.

WELLES, JOHN, (s. of Hugh and Mary) b. 1648; was given by the Town, 10 acs. ld. at Ry-H., 1672; in 1680, he sold to Capt. John Chester 10 acs. ld. on S. side of the mill-lot. In 1695, he rec. 24 acs. ld. betw. Cedar Mountain and the saw-mill at New. as it is now called; was recorder, 1678; may have been the J. W. who drew lds. in 1695 allot.?

WELLES, Capt. ROBERT, (s. John and Elizabeth *Bourne*; and gd-s. of Gov. Thomas) b. 1651; m. Elizabeth (dau. Ens. William) Goodrich; his father res. at Stratford, but Robert was early taken and bro't up by his gd-fthr. the Gov. at Weth. By the Gov'r's will he inher. 44 acs. ld. on N. side of present Prison St., and ext. W. to Htfd. road; his uncle, Capt. Samuel Welles, inheriting the ld. betw. this tract and High St. In 1687, he bo't of John Wickham, of Southampton, L. I., a tract of abt. 3 acs. betw. his own ld. and the River, on the N. E. His ho. was one of those which were "fortified" and garrisoned in 1704; he d. 1714.

WELLES, Capt. SAMUEL, (s. of Gov. Thomas) b. Eng.; was given, by his father, 1649, a ho'd, orig. Wm. Swayne's, on N. cor. of Fort (now Prison) St., and

High Sts. In 1662, the Town gr. him ld. for a warehouse, on the River (now the Cove) bank, in the High St. Common; he dr. lds. in 1670 allot.; and inher. the Gov.'s large est. on E. side the River, d. 1675.

WELLES, Capt. SAMUEL, (s. Capt. Samuel and Elizabeth *Hollister* and gd-s. Gov. Thomas) b. 1660; m. Ruth (dau. Edmond) Rice, of Marlborough, Mass., and inher. his father's lds. on E. side River, whither he rem. and became one of the pioneers of Glast.; he was surveyor for Naubuc, 1689. Sec. of U. S., Navy, Hon. Gideon Welles was one of his desc't's.

WELLES, Gov. THOMAS, came fm. Eng. prob. 1636, to Boston or vicinity, thence perhaps to Saybrook, thence, in 1637, or earlier, to Htfd., and thence, 1643, to Weth., where he rec. his ho'd (bo't of Mr. John Plumb) 10 Oct., 1646, a ho. and 18 acs. ld. bd. by Fort St. S., Edward Mason's wid. N., ho-lots of Wm. Swayne, Gentleman, Richard Guildersleeve and George Hubbard, E., Pennywise, W.; he, later, bo't the Wm. Swayne ho'd, which he gave to his s. Capt. Sam'l Welles, and the ld. lying W. of his own ho'd (now occup. by Gen. L. R. Welles) which he gave to his gd-s. Capt. Robert. He also bo't 12 June, 1655, fm. Robert Foote, the Joseph Boosey ho'd, being a ho., barn and 6 acs. ld. bd. by Broad St. W., Little Plain E., Abraham Finch S., Mr. George Wyllys and Thomas Coleman, N. He released to his step-son, Nath'l Foote, Jr., his int. in the ho'd formerly that of Nath'l Foote, Sen., dec'd; he d. 1659. [This Welles ppy. is now a part of the State Prison grounds. The old homestead standing thereon, and built prior to the Revolution, is now used as the Warden's residence.]

WELLS, THOMAS, (prob. a bro. of Hugh) was very early at Weth. where abt. 1650, he rec. his ho'd bo't of Thomas Coleman, on the E. side Broad St. betw. Ab'm Finch's, N. and sd. Coleman, S. He m. Mary (dau. Thos. Coleman) abt. 1651(?) but it is also said that his mother was the wid. Frances Welles, and that she m. said Coleman; certain it is that the recs. call this Thomas Welles a "s-in-law" of sd. Thos. Coleman. He rem. to Hadley, with several ch., at the first sett. of that place, where he d. 1676.

WELLES, Capt. THOMAS, (s. Capt. Samuel and Elizabeth) b. 1662; res. on N. cor. High and Fort (now Prison) Sts., which in 1712, he bo't of his bro., Rev. Samuel of Lebanon.

WELLES, THOMAS, of Stratford, (s. John and gd-s. of Gov. Thomas) inher. fm. the latter, 348 acs. ld. on E. side the River, which he rec., June, 1675. Mr. THOMAS, Jr., collector, 1702; sheep-master, 1704; he may have been the same person as Capt. Thomas, above mentioned.

WESCOTT, (*Westcott*—sometimes "*Wastecoate*," or "*Waistcoate*") RICHARD, rec. his ho'd 1640, on W. side High St. on S. cor. Fort (now Prison) St. It had earlier been Samuel Clarke's; sold it to John Stoddard, in 1645; Rem. to Fairfield, 164-; became one of early pprs. of Bedford, Westchester Co., N. Y.; he was one of the soldiers in the Peq. campaign of 1637.

WESTALL, (*Westell*, sometimes *Wastoll*) JOHN, in 1641 or thereabouts, bo't John Thomson's ho'd (which see, under that name); he also bo't abt. 1647, fm. Thos. Olcott of Htfd. the ho'd formerly of Robert Abbott, on the W.

side High St. and which he sold to John Harrison; was constable in 1651; a yr. or two later he was at Saybrook, where he commanded the garrison as "Sergeant"; he subsequently rem. to Saybrook.

WHAPLES, EPHRAIM,—See *Genealogies*.

WHAPLES, JOHN,—See *Genealogies*.

WHITCOMB, JOB, had lot at Ry-H. next N. of Benj. Crane's, on a proposed 6 rod wide highway to Ry-H., in 1680.

WHITE, NICHOLAS, (a "Jerman") adm. inhab. Sept., 1663, the first German, prob. in Weth.

WHITTLESEY, ELIPHLET and JABEZ, (sons of John, of Saybrook), both petit'rs 1712, for parish rights at West. Div. (New.).—See *Genealogies*.

WHITMORE, JOHN, ancestor of the Whitmores and Whitemores of Conn., came to Weth., 1639 or earlier, and took a ho-lot of 12½ acs. on which he put a ho. and barn. It was E. of the River-landing (now The Cove) at the Common; Robert Bates adj. in part, on the W., said Bates and Thos. Curtis adj. on the N., Thomas Whitway, Fr. Norton, Rev. Rich. Denton, John Jessup and Thos. Coleman S. He sold the place to Rich. Treat in 1641, having previously rem. to Stamford. He was killed by Inds. at S. Sept., 1649.—See, also, W. H. Water's *Gleanings* No. IV. in *New Eng. Gen. Rev.*, XIII., 301.

WHITWAY, THOMAS, sold his ho'd E. side High St., betw. Rich. Treat's, N., and Will. Colfax, S., in 1644, at abt. which time he rem. to Branford.

WEARD, (*Wiard*).—See *Wyard*.

WICKHAM, JOHN, (s. Thomas and Sarah), in 1686 bo't fm. his parents a part of their ho'd, W. side High St. Common, bd. N., by the then River; in the following yr. he sold it to Capt. Robert Welles, and rem. to Southampton, L. I.

WICKHAM, JOSEPH, (s. Thomas and Sarah, in 1687 sold his share of the parental ho'd to his s. Thomas, Jr., and then, or earlier, rem. to Southampton, L. I.

WICKHAM, SAMUEL, (s. Thomas and Sarah) in 1685, bo't the John Stoddard ho'd S. cor. High and Fort Sts., which, in 1686, he sold to Tho. Bulkeley, of Boston.

WICKHAM, THOMAS, the Settler, came to Weth. prob. before 1648, as, in that yr. he rec. the birth of his s. Thomas. In Feb., 1658-9, he rec. the ho'd he had bo't of Matthias Sension (St. John) bd. N. and E. by the High St. Common, S. by the Thomas Curtis ho'd, W. by Thomas Tracy's.—Perhaps this was the orig. Weede ho'd. The Town gave him add. adj. ld. in 1662, in which yr. he bo't the Thos. Tracy ho'd, two pieces, with a ho., barn, etc. He also bo't Thos. Curtis' lot on the E. side the River, 135 acs. and had 2 lots next to Far. line. He seems to have been a dealer in wool, of which in 1664, he bo't some 400 lbs. of sundry Boston parties; he had a shop by the

River (now The Cove). He and his wife Sarah, in 1673, gave the Matt. Sension ho'd with a ho., warehouse and "cellar" to their eld. s. Thomas; he d. 1689.

WICKHAM, Cornet, THOMAS, (s. Thomas, the Settler and Sarah) b. 1648, was a "cordwainer"; constable, 1677; in 1683 the Town gave him ld. by the River (now the Cove) to set a "shop" upon; he was leather sealer, 1715; his dwell-ho. was of *brick*, and must have been one of the earliest brick houses in Weth.; he mentions it in 1715, but when it was erected does not appear; prob in 1673. His shop and wareho. were near it, on the N. and W. side of High St. Common; he was a lieut. and a cornet of the Htfd. Co. troop (dragoons) and did good service in the Ind. and Fr. campaign.

WICKHAM, WILLIAM, (s. of Thomas, the Settler and Sarah), rem. to E. side of the River, prior to 1683, at which time he was fence-viewer for Naubuc.

WICKS, (*Weekes*) THOMAS, (This name properly belongs under that of *Weeks*) sold his ho'd to Capt. John Tinker, Apl., 1641, at which time he rem. to Stamford, fm. the latter place he rem. to Oyster Bay, L. I., abt. 1654, where he d. 1671, leaving a wife and seven ch.

WILLARD, "Mr." JOSIAH, the Settler, (s. of Maj. Simon and Mary *Sharpe*, who were of Horsemondon, Co. Kent, Eng., and later of Concord, Mass.) b. prob. abt. 1635; adm. inhab. of Weth., Sept., 1662; was one of the messengers sent by the Town of Weth. to New Lond., 1666, to bring Mr. Bulkeley, as minister; he bo't the Samuel Martin ho'd on the W. side of Broad St. in Feb., 1661-2; John Edwards adj. it on the N. and Nath. Dickinson S. In 1663, he bo't the John Betts' ho'd on the S. E. side of Broad St.; also B.'s lot of 225 acs. on the E. side of the River; was many yrs. the Town school-master.

WILLARD, SIMON, (s. Josiah, the Settler) dr. lot in West Div. (New.) 1695, on which he prob. rem.; surveyor of highways, 1707; in 1712 was one of the petit. for parish rights at the West Farms (New.)

WILLARD, STEPHEN, (s. Josiah, the Settler) was given ld. to set his "shop" on, 1700; collector, 1702; in 1718, he bo't the ho'd of Michael Griswold, Jr., on the S. W. side Broad St. next S. of the Jona Latimer pl., he already owning the ho'd formerly his father's adj. on the S. of Griswold's. There was an "old ho." (Nath'l Dickinson's?) on the purchased tract. Willard was prob. a blacksmith.

WILLIAMS, AMOS, (s. Matthew and Susannah) b. 1645-6; Town-crier, 1668; dr. ld. in 1670 allot.; in 1673 he bo't a tract of 16½ acs. at Ry-H. fm. Thomas Hollister, it was on W. side Midd. road, betw. Jonathan Boardman's S. and Samuel Boardman's N., and on it he prob. sett. and became one of the earliest inhab. of Ry-H. He bo't 5 acs. more fm. John Miller, next N. of Wm. Morris.

WILLIAMS, Rev. and Col. ELISHA, (For *biog.* see Chapters VIII, X and XVIII, Vol. I, and *Williams Geneal.*, Vol. II); was on school committee of the Town, 1714; in 1719, bo't of Samuel Boardman, the latter's ho'd on S. E. side of Broad (?) St. betw. John Warner's, N., and Richard Montagues, S.; July



10, 1755, Mary, wife of his s. Eliphalet Williams, of Htfd. gave him the ho'd on W. side Broad St. betw. Samuel Steele's, N., and Lieut. Joseph Treats' S.  $3\frac{1}{4}$  acs. ld. (with bldgs.) ext. thro' to Main St.—the present Hon. Silas W. Robbins' place.

WILLIAMS, ELISHA, (nephew of Col. and Rev. Elisha, and s. of Rev. Solomon) was a meht. in Weth. (firm of Williams, Trumbell & Pitkin), who began store-keeping abt. 1738.

WILLIAMS, SAMUEL, (s. Matt. and Susannah) b. 1653-4; given ld. at Ry-H. by the Town, 1698, that had formerly been given to Wm. Morris.—See latter.

WILLIAMS, THOMAS, Sen., bo't of Matt. Treat, Feb., 1660-1, the ho'd on E. side Broad St. betw. James Boosey's heirs, S., and John Latimer's and John Coleman's W.; in the same month the Town gave him 12 acs. at Ry-H., bd. E. by the River, S. by Hog Brook, W. by Common lds., N. by Samuel Boardman's ld.—*W. T. V.*, I., 73. In 1668, he bo't Samuel Boardman's tract of 30 acs. at Ry-H. on W. side of highway by the River's side, bd. W. and N. by Common lds. and S. partly by Common lds. and partly by the 12 ac. lot above ment. He is believed to have been one of the very earliest sett. at Ry-H., with Joseph Smith for a neighbor. In 1672, the Town gave him 10 acs. more, betw. his lot at Ry-H. and Hog Brook.

WILLOUGHBY, FRANCIS, (s. of Francis and Mary, of Charlestown?) in 1668, bo't meadow ld. of Samuel Welles. He was the half bro. of Rev. Jonathan; he sold to John Chester, a ho'd on W. side Broad St. next S. of John Kilbourn's—called himself "of Charlestown."

WILLOUGHBY, Rev. JONATHAN, (s. of Francis and Mary, of Charlestown, Mass.) b. Eng., came to Weth. as minister, 1665; in Oct., 1667, he bo't of James Wakeley a ho'd bd. S. by a highway (Sandy Lane?), E. by John Kilbourn's, W. by Thomas Bunce's, N. by Wm. Goodrich's. His wife was Grizzel (Gricell) dau. of John and Ann Goldsburge, of "Godmanchester, Huntingdonshire," Eng., to whom, in Feb., 1667-8, he conveyed his est.; rem. to Haddam.

WILSON, PHINEAS, a native of Dublin, residing at Htfd., bo't several ho'ds in Weth. one for his s-in-law, Joseph Rowlandson, Jr., in 1679, fm. Ann Latimer on S. side street connecting Main St. with the upper end of Broad St.; in 1683, he bo't the ho'd of Moses Craft's, being where Levi Goodwin's ho'd was, now Hon. S. W. Robbins' ppy.

WILTERTON, GREGORY, lived in Htfd. in 1637, a tanner; in 1665 he came to Weth. where he bo't the ho'd of John and Dorothy Russell, on the W. side High St.; this he sold to Sam'l Hale, 1682, who sold it to the Town for Church purposes. John Merrills was his adopted son.

WOLCOTT, GEORGE, (s. of Henry, of Windsor) came to Weth. fm. Windsor, with his wife Elizabeth, prob. soon after 1650; in 1665, rec. his ho'd.; a ho. with  $12\frac{1}{2}$  acs. ld. on W. side High St. betw. Rich Butler and Thos. Curtis', N., and Rich. Montague, John Hollister, Will. Gibbons, Thos. Tracy, and Thos. Coleman, S., being the old John Whitmore ho'd; was constable, 1657; by his will, dated 9 Jan., 1662, prob. 10 Aug., 1693, he gave this ho'd to his s. George.

WOLCOTT, GEORGE, Jr. b. 1653—as above ment. inher his father's ho-std.

WOLCOTT, HENRY, (s. of Henry, the Windsor Settler), bo't of Wm. Parker, of Roxbury, Mass., att'y of Sarah, wid. of Clement Chaplin, 25 Sept., 1663, the Chaplin ho'd (for which, see *Chaplin*) inclu. sundry lots in Great and Beaver meadows, Wet and Dry swamps, the West Field and the lot of 1,200 acs. at Nayaug (the Chester lot, N., and Matt. Mitchell, S.); one undivided half of *all* his lds. in Weth. he conveys to his s. Samuel, in 1678; in his will he gives his Weth. lds. to his sons, Samuel of Weth. and Josiah, of Windsor.

WOLCOTT, JOSIAH, (s. Capt. Samuel and Judith) b. 1682?, d. prior to 1713?; gave life est. to his mother.

WOLCOTT, JUDITH, (dau. Samuel) Appleton, of Ipswich; wid. of Samuel Wolcott; res. in the pl. now known as the Webb (Washington's headquarters) Place, having bo't out the interest of her unmarried dau., Mary, and inher. the interest of her s. Josiah. Mary, the same yr. m. John Stillman.

WOLCOTT, Capt. SAMUEL, (s. Henry and Sarah *Newbery*, of Windsor) b. 1656; m. Judith (dau. Sam'l) Appleton of Ipswich, Mass.; constable, 1679; selectman, 1685; in 1678 his father gave him one undivided half of his dwell-ho. and Weth. lds.; by his father's will, he with his bro., Josiah, of Windsor, rec'd lds. in Weth.

WOOD, EDMOND (Edward?), yeoman, fm. Springfield, in 1636; rem. to Stamford, 1641; sold his Weth. ho'd to Geo. Wyllys, 25 Mch., 1640; it was on N. E. side Short St. (near where the Marsh ho'd was for so many yrs.), and contained 10 acs. bd. N. by the "Church" ld., S. by meadow of Thos. Sherwood, W. by a Common (Meeting-ho. square), and a "three-way lete" (or ditch) "in the middle of the Town." He also had 6 acs. at Pennywise, which he sold to Wyllys, and which he had bo't fm. John Sherman, "Gent." This seems to be the name which *Savage* mistakes for *Edward* Wood.

WOOD, JONAS, (eld. s. of Edward, above ment.) owned a part of the ho'd and joined in the deed with his father, when it was sold to George Wyllys. Rem. to Stamford with his father and aided in founding that town. Perhaps he rem. with his father to Hempstead, L. I., abt. 1644. Was sometimes called "Halifax" Jonas.—See, also, Huntington's *Hist. Stamford*, p. 46.

WOODBIDGE, Rev. JOHN, (s. of Rev. John, of Newbury, Mass.) came to Weth. as its minister, 1679, and there res. until his dth. 1701; rec'd £100 per ann. the use of parsonage and 80 loads of wood pr. yr.; in 1685, the Town gave him a farm of 200 acs. W. of Cedar Mountain, adj. the Htfd. S. line, bd. by the Common, W., and highway, E., to be 160 rods wide and ext. far enough S. to make the quantity; wid. was pensioned by the Town.—See also Chapt. XVIII.

WOODHOUSE, JOSEPH, first of the surname in Weth. (s. of Richard, of Boston, and b. abt. 1640?) first appears in Weth. recs. Nov., 1716, when he bo't the dwell-ho. of Thos Wickham, on W. side High St. next S. of Common—it was prob. the first *brick* ho. in the township.

WRIGHT, ANTHONY, was—with Matt. Treat and Sam'l Belden, part-owner of a ho'd sold to John Latimer, prior to 12th Mch., 1657-8, on N. side Broad St., described under John Latimer's name.

WRIGHT, BENJAMIN, in 1660-1, bo't Emmanuel Buck's ho'd in Weth. on S. side Fort (now Prison) St., and ext. through to Sandy Lane; lds. of John Goodrich, Thomas Wright, the wid. Gibbs and John Stoddard E., and of Robert Francis and Thos. Standish, W. He was prob. a s. of Benjamin of Guilford, who d. 1677.

WRIGHT, DAVID, (ygst. s. of Sam'l) inher. his father's ho'd in 1690, it being ld. on the W. side of Rose Lane (Main St.), bo't by the latter of Jonathan Smith, in 1678, in 2 parcels—next S. of the Samuel Wolcott (now the famous Webb) ho'std. It was one of the six "fortified" houses of 1704; part of the ld. had come to David by descent. fm. his gd-ftr., Thomas, the Settler; he was collector, 1713.

WRIGHT, JAMES, (s. of Thomas, the Settler) came to Weth. with his fthr. in 1639 (or pos. some yrs. earlier); in Oct., 1651, his fthr. gave him a ho'd on W. side Rose Lane (Main St.) a ho. and 3 acs. ld. bd. by Luke Hitchcock's N., Joseph Smith's, W., and Watering (now Back) Lane, S. This he sold to his bro. in 1681. At the same time his fthr. gave him abt. a third (32 acs.) of The Island, since known as Wright's Island. It was bd. N. by lds. of John Nott and Thos. Wright, E., W. and S. by the River, and took all of the S. end excepting 3 acs. of Thos. Tracy and 4 acs. of the heirs of Will. Gibbons. He shared in the allot. of 1695, as an inhab. of the township; in 1663, he bo't the Tracy lot on The Island; and in 1671, bo't Mark Keley's lot of 132 ac. on the E. side the River.

WRIGHT, JAMES, Jr., (s. of the foregoing James, by his second wife Dorcas) b. 1761?; inher. fm. his father the larger part of Wright's Island and purchased add. portions, so that he became almost its sole prop'r. He built thereon a dwell-ho. and was, for many yrs. the sole inhab. of The Island. In 1712, the Town gave to him the 52 ac. lot which his fthr. had drawn in 1695, and he took it in right of his dec'd fthr.

WRIGHT, JOHN, cordwainer, (s. of Joseph and Mary), b. 1679?; in 1706, bo't fm. his bro., Joseph, of Colchester, a ho-lot of 2 acs, on N. E. side Sandy Lane, betw. Robert Francis N. W. and Daniel Rose, S. W. This he sold to Joshua Leavett, in 1713; in 1711, he sold to Thos. Wright (his bro.?) ld. on S. side of the upper road leading E. fm. High St. Common; he was collector, 1706; lister, 1712; and in that yr. of the Comm. to build a school-ho. at Ry-H. where he prob. res.

WRIGHT, JONATHAN, (s. Joseph and Mary) b. 1681; res. at the West Farms (New.) a petit. for parish rights there, 1712.

WRIGHT, JOSEPH, a cooper, (s. of Thomas, the Settler), prob. b. Eng.; rec'd fm. his fthr., Oct., 1662, a ho'd on the E. side High St. betw. that of the heirs of Rev. Henry Smith, N., and the Burying-gd. and ho'd of Francis Yates, S. This he gave to the Town for a parsonage, in 1664, in exch. for another ho'd with an old school-ho. on it, (betw. Samuel Wolcott's, N. and Rich. Smith's, S.) on the W. side of Main St. This he convey. to Hugh Welles,

Jan., 1665-6, getting fm. H. W. in exch. a ho'd on the E. side of High St. betw. Samuel Smith's, N. and Gregory Wilterton, S. In 1706, he gave his s. Thomas, his High St. ho'd, next N. of the Wilterton place, which had become the parsonage lot. In 1668, he had 5 acs. ld. on Wright's Isld. betw. Thos. Wright's N. and Joseph Smith's, S.

WRIGHT, JOSEPH, (s. of Joseph above ment.) b. 1670, as a Weth. householder, dr. lds. in 1695 allot.; was collector in 1698, but in 1706 was res. at Colchester, where he sold to his bro. John, the ho'd which he had bo't of Peter Blinn, in 1697. It was on the N. side of Sandy Lane, betw. Daniel Rose's, E., and Rob't Francis, W.

WRIGHT, LYDIA, (gd-dau. of Thomas, the Settler) drew lds. in 1694 allot.—See *Geneal.*

WRIGHT, Ens. SAMUEL, (s. of Thomas, the Settler) prob. b. Eng.; freeman, 1657; selectman, 1670-1; in same yr. the Town gave him ld. to set his "shop" upon; in 1671, he bo't of James Treat the latter's lot of 84 acs. 20 rods, in the Great West Field (see the highway ment. in the deed, *Weth. Ld. Rec.*, II., p. 151). In 1672, he bo't Sam'l Martin's tract of 55½ acs. in same Field; in 1674, Rich. Lord's 10 acs. in the same; in 1678, he bo't of Jona Smith, the 3 acs with dwell-ho. on W. side Rose Lane (Main St.) betw. sd. Wright's S. and lots of Henry (or Samuel?) Wolcott and Hugh Welles, N. Also, fm. sd. Smith, 4½ acs. betw. Michael Griswold's, S. W., and Thos. Curtis', N. E., sd. Griswold W., and ho-lots of "Mr." Wolcott and heirs of Ens. Will. Goodrich, S. E.; a triangular plot. In 1682, the Town gave him 16 acs. next S. of the tract which Capt. John Chester bo't of "Mr." Seeley, betw. Mrs. John Hollister's, E., and Jonathan Smith's, W. This was then the *furthest South* of any piece allotted in the Great West Field. In 1681, he bo't of James Wright (his bro.) the ho-lot of 3 acs. with dwell-ho. on N. W. cor. Rose Lane and Watering (now Back) Lane. In 1685, he sold to his s-in-law, Daniel Boardman, abt. ½ an ac. out of the last piece above described; he d. 1712.

WRIGHT, Sgt. SAMUEL, (s. Ens. Samuel, above ment.) in 1685, bo't of Daniel Boardman, ½ ac. ld. with dwell-ho. on W. side Rose Lane, betw. Samuel Wright, Sen. N., and heirs of Isaac Boardman, S., giving said B. in exch., 1½ an ac. (adj.?) ; in 1712, he inher. fm. his father, the dwell-ho. and ld. adj.; that which the latter bo't of Jonathan Smith. Also, 3 acs. W. side Rose Lane, betw. ld. formerly of Rich. Smith, N., and Luke Hitchcock, S.

WRIGHT, THOMAS, the Settler, came fm. Wat.(?) before 1639, with wife and ch.; he had one ho'd 3½ acs. W. side High St. on which was his ho. builded prob. before 1639, Rob't Abbott, S., and Samuel Clarke, N. Another ho'd rec. 1654, a ho., barn and 5 acs. ld. bo't of Sam'l Hale, on W. side Back Lane, betw. Luke Hitchcock, N. and "lane leading to Michael Griswold's" S., New St. (discontinued 1660) W. This should have been described as on Rose (and not Bell) Lane; he bo't the Rich. Belden lot of 20½ acs. in West Field, in 1654.

He became, by purchase, the owner of nearly the whole of The Great Island, thereafter known as Wright's Island, and which he mostly gave to his sons Thomas and James; his sons bo't other parcels on the Island. Thomas' part was at the N. end, and James' at the S. end.



Thomas, the Settler, was selectman, 1658. In 1663, he sold to his son Joseph, a ho'd on the E. side High St. betw. the Rev. Henry Smith's heirs' ho'd N., and that of Fr. Yates and the Burying-gd. S.; 3 acs. 3 rods (roods?), fm. whom he bo't is unknown.

WRIGHT, THOMAS, (s. of Thomas, the Settler) b. Eng. rec'd fm. his father, 1639, a ho'd on W. side High St., betw. Will Gibbons' heirs' N. and John Harrison's heirs' S., also 30 acs. on The Island; he was a constable, 1662; bell-ringer, etc., 1666.

WRIGHT, THOMAS, (s. Thomas, Jr.) b. 1660, sold part of his ho-lot on W. side High St. to David Goodrich, 1703; dr. lds. in 1694 allot. collector, 1704; sealer of weights, 1714.

WRIGHT, THOMAS, (s. Joseph) b. 1677; rec'd fm. his father, 1706, a ho'd, ho. and 4 acs. ld. on E. side High St. betw. Wm. Burnham's and the parsonage, S., and Benj. Churchill's, N. In 1711, he or the Thomas Wright next above, bo't of John Wright, "cordwainer,"  $3\frac{3}{4}$  acs. ld. formerly of Joseph Wright (father of John) on S. side of (Jordan Lane) street; betw. Joseph Wright's, E., and Benj. Churchill's, W.; John Curtis' bdg. S.

WIARD, JOHN.—See *Wyard*.

WIAT, JOHN.—See *Wyatt*.

WYARD, JOHN, m. Sarah (dau. Tho.) Standish, 1680; was 34 yrs. old in 1688; constable that yr.; tythingman 1692; dr. lds. 1694; in 1690, bo't of John Stedman, the Thos. Hurlburt ho'd (orig. John Elsen's) W. side Bell Lane; betw. sd. Hurlburt's N., and Phebe Martin's, S.; bo't of James Poisson, 1713, the ho'd which Edward and James Poisson had bo't of John Benjamin in 1708. See *Poisson*. (Query, can this be the same name as *Weir* and *Ware*?)

WYARD, JOHN, (s. John and Mary) b. 1684; in 1715, bo't of Dr. James Poisson, of Simsbury (but formerly of Weth. and Derby), the same ho'd which John Wyard, Sen. had bo't in 1713 (see under John Wyard, Sen.); this he sold to Joseph Bigelow, in 1720; John Wyard, Jr., collector, 1714; sold his negro Anthony his freedom, in 1711.

WYATT, Ens. JOHN, (s. John and Mary *Bronson*, of Far.(?); bo't of Thos. Wright in Mch., 1674-5, the ho'd 2 acs. on the N. side Sandy Lane(?) betw. John Goodrich, S., and Thos. Wright, E., and Robert Francis, W., Thomas Wright on the N.; sold to Nath. Butler, 1678. He was a weaver; also, a noted Ind. fighter. In 1694, the Town gave him leave to buy two of the 52 ac. lots in the Mile-in-Breadth. The Town also gave him, in 1694, 20 acs. ld. on N. side Jordan Lane, near the top of Cedar Mountain; also, he dr. ld. 1694. *Cothren* thinks he rem. to Woodbury. If so, it was after 1694.

WYLLYS, GEORGE, of Hartford, Governor and Secretary of the Colony, bo't several ho-stds. in Weth. mostly in 1639-41, some of which were not rec. until nearly a century after (by his gd-s.?) This was the case with the Thos. Sherwood, the John Strickland, and the Edmond Wood ho-stds. (see under those names). He also bo't the ho'd of Thomas Tapping and John Fletcher, in

1640. He bo't several of the Three-mile lots, on the E. side the River, aggregating 1,227½ acs.

Thomas Edwards, one of the earliest sett. on the E. side the River, in Weth. Hoccanum, was a tenant of Mr. Wyllys, and, afterwards of his s. Samuel. To the latter, in 1671, Edwards mort. his wheat, barley, Ind. corn and oats, as security for rent.

WYLLYS, SAMUEL, Col. Sec'y, (s. of George, the Gov.) altho' a res. of Htfd., rec'd fm. his father no less than 16 parcels of ld. in Weth., some of which were ho-stds., and 3, amounting to 1,227½ acs. were of the 3-mile long lots on E. side the River. One piece which Samuel rec'd fm. his father was made up of ho-stds, bo't by the latter in 1641 fm. Thos. Sherwood and Edmond Wood. This was sold by Sam'l Wyllys to Wm. Burnham and others, the whole becoming ultimately sd. Burnham's ho'd and meadow; and afterwards the ho'd and est. of the Rev. John Marsh, D. D., S. and E. of the burying-gd.

Nath'l Foote, Jr., and Timothy Hyde, and others, bo't lds. of Samuel Wyllys, and some of it was taken on execution by Rich. Lord, of Htfd.

YATES, FRANCIS, rem. to Stamford, 1641, thence to Hempstead, L. I., abt. 1647. He did not sell his ho-lot in Weth. until 1665-6, when it was purchased by Rich. Lord, of Htfd. Yates had bo't it fm. Thos. Wright, Sen., perhaps in 1639. It had a "cellar" on it, in which, prob., Yates had lived, and it was on the S. side of the way leading into the burying-gd. and was bd. E. by Geo. Wyllys' ld.; S. and W. by the highway; and contained 1 rood of ld. Mr. Lord sold the place to John Coltman. Yates made his will in Westchester Co., N. Y., in 1682; mentions ch. Mary, John, Dinah, Jonathan and Dorothy.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*The Ministry of the First Ecclesiastical Society of Wethersfield and Biographies of its Ministers—And the Beginnings of the Parishes of Glastonbury, Stepney and Newington, Until Their Formation into Independent Ecclesiastical Societies.*

[By SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ., ENLARGED BY HENRY R. STILES, M. D.]

CONCERNING those, who, in the Providence of God, have been called to preside over this ancient Church, we have sought from many sources, the facts herewith presented.

We have already alluded (Chapter III) to the three ministers (DENTON, SHERMAN and PRUDDEN), who seem to have officiated, more or less regularly, before the settlement of the first pastor in his office—which must have been at the Church's first organization, February 28, 1641.

This *first settled pastor*, was the Rev. HENRY SMITH, originally from Charlestown, Mass., whither, as Mr. *Savage* thinks, he arrived from England, in 1636; and where he was, with his wife, admitted to Church membership, 5th of 10mo., 1637. To Wethersfield he probably came in July, 1637, bringing with him a wife (his second), and one or two daughters by a first wife. It does not appear that he had ever been settled previously to his coming here. His home in Wethersfield, not recorded until 1648, was on a lot of two acres on the northeast of High Street, and Meeting House Square—the first house northerly from the Meeting House. It was in Wethersfield that his oldest son, Samuel, was born, January 27, 1638 (O. S.), also his son, Noah, and daughters, Joanna and Elizabeth. Mr. Smith's ministry was not a happy one. Mr. Clement Chaplin, the Ruling Elder of the Church—a man of wealth, prominent in public affairs and influential with a large majority of the congregation, for many years involved his pastor in difficulties—which finally became so unbearable that the aid of the General Court was invoked to put an end to them—as elsewhere stated. True, the Court, after a long examination into the merits of the case, in 1643, estopped Mr. Chaplin, by a fine of £11, from libelling Mr. Smith; but this did not wholly stop him from further annoying the pastor with various civil suits, which again compelled the Court's investigation. Mr. Smith was finally exonerated and vindicated by the action of the Court; but Chaplin and his followers allowed him not





Gerthom Bulkley

1667-1676.

Joseph Rowlandson.

1676-1678.

John Woodbridge.

1679-1691.

Seph: Mink

1693-1738.

James Lockwood

1738-1772.

John Marsh, Pastor.

1774-1821.

C. F. Turrey -

1781-1841.

Calvin Chapin, D.D.

ROCKY HILL, 1794-1851.

Timothy Stevens

FIRST PASTOR OF GLASTONBURY, 1692-1726.

much quiet—and though after this his ministry seems to have met with no serious interruption, yet it is thought that his trials preyed upon his health and brought him, in 1648, prematurely to the grave, “grieved and wearied with the burdens of his charge.”<sup>1</sup> Concerning his personality and ministry, we have already spoken fully in Chapter III. His widow married Mr. John Russell, father of the Rev. John Russell, Jr., who succeeded Mr. Smith in the Wethersfield pastorate. The descendants of the first minister of Wethersfield are found in the Blake-man, Huxley Loomis, and some other Connecticut families; and in the Wethersfield Smith family of the present day. In John Cotton Smith, Governor of Connecticut, from 1813-1818, and son of the Rev. Cotton Mather Smith, of Sharon, Ct., the lines of descent from Rev. Henry Smith and from a sister of Rev. Cotton Mather were both represented.

*Second Pastor.*—From 1648 to 1650, it does not appear what formal invitations, if any, the Town extended to other ministers to supply the vacant pulpit. It is supposed that the Rev. JOHN RUSSELL, a young man then residing in Wethersfield with his father (the same who married Mr. Smith’s widow), was settled as pastor in 1650. But he *may* have been settled two years earlier. Born in England, he had graduated at Harvard College in 1645, and had resided in Cambridge, Mass., with his father, for a few years prior to their removal to Wethersfield. As late as 1648 he was a constable at Cambridge, and probably removed to Wethersfield the same year, as he married there, June 28, 1649, Mary, the daughter of the Worshipful John Talcott, one of Hartford’s chief settlers. He soon attained a favorable standing among the clergy of the Connecticut Colony; and received from the General Court an important appointment for the adjustment of grave doctrinal points of discussion then agitating the Church. The early part of his ministry seems to have passed quietly; but he and his church ultimately became involved in the, so-called, Hartford controversy, of which Cotton Mather pithily observes, “what the precise nature of the controversy was, it was difficult, even at the time, to tell.”<sup>2</sup> It is sup-

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<sup>1</sup> The High Churchman and Tory, Rev. SAMUEL PETERS, in his (burlesque) *History of Connecticut*, 1781, gives quite a different view of Mr. Smith; which, however, like most of his statements concerning the religious and political affairs of the Colony need not be taken too seriously by the reader. He says, “Wethersfield was settled in 1637, by the Rev. Mr. Smith and his followers, who left Watertown, near Boston, in order to get out of the power of [Rev.] Mr. Cotton, whose severity in New England exceeded that of the Bishops in Old England. But, Mr. Smith *did not discard the spirit of persecution* as the sole property of Mr. Cotton, but carried with him a sufficient quantity to distress and divide his little flock.”

<sup>2</sup> The reader, who may have a fancy for looking more deeply into this ecclesiastical

posed, however, to have referred to the reciprocal rights of the clergy and laity; and, so irreconcilable did the feud become that, at last, Mr. Russell and the majority of his church, together with similar malcontents from the Hartford and Windsor Churches (see Chap. III), resolved to remove from the atmosphere of contention; and, in 1659, laid the foundations of a new town and church at Hadley, Mass. It was at his house there that the regicide judges, Goffe and Whalley were so long concealed and were buried some years apart, upon his ground and close to the foundations of his dwelling.<sup>2</sup> Their remains were found a few years ago, when this wall was removed in the course of excavation for a railroad. Mr. Russell died in January, 1670, at Hadley. Judd says of him: "Mr. Russell at Wethersfield, was ardent and resolute, but sometimes indiscreet, and he had warm friends and powerful opposers. At Hadley he appears to have been an active and faithful pastor."<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Russell's residence while in Wethersfield was a house which he bought of John Fletcher (who removed to Milford), and it stood on the south corner formed by the street connecting Main and Broad Streets—on land now owned by Miss M. Nettie Adams of Wethersfield.

*Third Pastor.*—REV. JOHN COTTON, JR. (son of the distinguished divine of the same name, at Boston), was next called. He was born at Plymouth, Mass., 22nd of March, 1639-40; graduated at Harvard, 1657; and accepted the Wethersfield call February, 1659-60,<sup>4</sup> Samuel Martin being delegated to bring him up "from the Bay." He served the Wethersfield Church until 1663, and from thence went to Martha's Vineyard, where he preached to the Indians in their own language. In 1667, he removed to Plymouth, where he remained until 1697, meanwhile preaching frequently at Guilford, Conn., where his son-in-law, Dr. Bray Rossiter, resided; and two of Mr. Cotton's children were born in Guilford. From Guilford he was dismissed, says *Savage*, "under very unpleasant circumstances"; was settled in the ministry at Charleston, S. C., in 1698, and died there of yellow fever, 18th of September, 1699, aged 60.<sup>5</sup>

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squabble, will do well and, perhaps, find some enlightenment by consulting Judd's *Hist. of Hadley, Mass.*, pp. 11-17.

<sup>2</sup> Pres. Stiles' *Hist. of Regicide Judges*, 1794, p. 108; pp. 199-205.

<sup>3</sup> Judd's *Hist. of Hadley*, p. 53.

<sup>4</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I., p. 62; his salary to be £70, free house rent, p. 76.

<sup>5</sup> Pres. Stiles of Y. C. (in his *Diary*, I., 217) under date of 13 Mch., 1772, says of this church, "It was gathered about A. D., 1700, by Rev. Mr. Cotton of Plymouth, son of the first venerable Mr. Cotton, Teacher at Boston; and is a Congregational church, and called the New England Meeting, not because it was composed of New England settlers, but from the circumstance of its being gathered by Mr. Cotton, a New England Congregationalist, its first pastor."

*Fourth Pastor.*—He was succeeded by the Rev. JOSEPH HAYNES, (son of Gov. Haynes), called June 12, 1663,<sup>1</sup> a graduate of Harvard. His wife was Sarah (daughter of Richard and grandson of Thomas, (the Settler) Lord. In 1664 he accepted a call from the First Congregational Church of Hartford, where he died, May 14, 1679, aged 38.

Rev. THOMAS BUCKINGHAM was called by the Town, August 15th, 1664, to supply the pulpit temporarily. He was the son of Thomas of New Haven and Milford, and uncle of the Rev. Thomas, second pastor of the Second Church at Hartford. His wife was Esther Hosmer, of Hartford. In 1670, he was called to Saybrook, where he became one of the founders of Yale College, and where he died April 1, 1709, aged 62.

"At a Towne Meeting, Aug. 15, 1664. It was voted and agreed by the Town of Wethersfield, to give Mr. Buckingham [then residing in Hartford] 20 shillings per week for a quarter of a year to come, for his help in the ministry." Goodwin's *Foote General*, says, "he preached at Wethersfield a few Sabbaths only," and his services were apparently not much to the liking of that community. In June, 1664, a Mr. Nathaniel Brewster, preacher of the First Church, Boston, had been invited, but came not;<sup>3</sup> and the Rev. Samuel Torrey, of Weymouth, Mass., was also invited and Samuel Boardman was desired by the Town "to go into the Bay" and "fetch" him;<sup>4</sup> but this distinguished author of three Election Sermons was not to be "fetched."

The Rev. Jonathan Willoughby (or, Willaube), of Charlestown, Mass., was invited "on trial" in September, 1664. He was a son of Lieutenant-Governor Francis Willoughby; and probably born in England. His engagement with Wethersfield ended in May, 1665; from there he went to Haddam where he probably died about 1668. [Goodwin (*Foote Geneal.*) thinks he was taken back "to the Bay" according to previous agreement, at the expense of the Town].

Meantime, as Mr. Willoughby had agreed to stay one year only, the Rev. Samuel Wakeman, of Fairfield (son of Rev. John, of New Haven), was invited, 1665.<sup>5</sup> He was a graduate of Harvard, and much esteemed. He preached the Election Sermon at Hartford, in 1685. Without being settled, as far as can be learned, he must have preached in Wethersfield, until the spring of 1660.

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 77.

<sup>2</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I., p. 81.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 80.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 82. *Ibid.*, p. 81.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 87.



*Fifth Pastor.*—The Wethersfield people, tired of “temporary supplies” to their pulpit, had, by this time, evidently “set their hearts” upon securing Rev. GERSHOM BULKELEY, of New London, as their pastor, and to him, the Town, on June 14th, 1664, sent Mr. Josiah Willard and Samuel Hale, with an invitation to settle here at a salary of “fourscore pounds” per annum. He declined. On the 3rd of July following, the Town repeated the call, offering £100 salary, a house, the use of the common lands, and transportation for his household goods. The messengers, Messrs. (John ?) Chester and Samuel Boardman, who were entrusted with the Town’s letter conveying this offer to Mr. Bulkeley, reported on their return, July 3rd, that Mr. Bulkeley would not come unless some assistance in the ministry could be provided for him, by the Town. The Rev. Samuel Stow, the first pastor at Middletown, where he had been settled in 1653, (and son of John of Roxbury), was also invited by the Wethersfield people “to be helpful in the work of the ministry” among them, but could not be induced to accept the call. Whereupon, the Town voted to employ Mr. SAMUEL STONE, Jr., of Hartford, as such assistant, or colleague; and at a subsequent meeting their previous offer to Mr. Bulkeley was modified to £70 per annum, and £40 to Mr. Stone, and the negotiations were satisfactorily ended.<sup>1</sup>

September 17th, 1667, the Town formally voted that Messrs. Bulkeley and Stone were “approved” of, as “fit and able men to be officers of the Church in this place.” Hence, we may infer that they had already served some months on trial. On the 4th of November, 1667, the Town voted that Mr. Bulkeley “should have the use and benefit of the housing and homestead that he *liveth upon*, and the remainder of the parsonage land.”<sup>2</sup> In the following March, his permanent salary was fixed at £70; in October, 1668, the Town rebuilt the parsonage and in 1669, his salary was raised to £100.

And yet, in spite of all this desire to secure Mr. Bulkeley’s presence among them and to ensure his comfort and perfect satisfaction, it does not seem that he had formally taken office in the Wethersfield Church until some time in 1668; for, on the 5th of May in that year, the vote of the Town was that he should have sixscore acres of land at Dividend

<sup>1</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I., p. 94.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 96, voted to give Mr. B. £90 and Mr. S. £40.

“November the 4th, 1667.

“At a Towne meeting, the Committee sent to Mr. Buckley and Mr. Stone made returne to the Towne; and it was voated and granted that Mr. Stone, for his incouragement to settle amongst us in the worke of the ministry, should have the

Brook, "*if* he take office in the Church." To this, in 1670, the Town added 20 acres. When his land came to be laid out in severalty, in 1671, it was stated to be 140 acres, in one tract.

*Sixth (and Colleague) Pastor.*—The Rev. SAMUEL STONE, who was called to be Mr. Bulkeley's assistant, in April, 1666, was a son of the distinguished clergyman of the same name, pastor of the First Church at Hartford, and was born in 1633. He probably entered upon his duties with youthful energy, and that his services were acceptable, both to his senior and to the Town, is evident from the records, which show that their interests were equally well considered in the matter of settlement. But he gradually developed habits of dissipation, and of too great fondness for liquor, which probably rendered him lax in his duties—for, in May, 1676, the General Court felt obliged to order him to assist Mr. Bulkeley in the ministry, because the latter was overworked; and from that time on, it is not probable that he was of much use to the Town, inasmuch as, after April, 1677, we find that (Mr. Bulkeley having resigned in the previous year) the care of the Wethersfield Church was in the hands of the Rev. Joseph Rowlandson. Mr. Stone, whose chief merit, perhaps, was that he was "the son of his father," went his way, from bad to worse, until his death (unmarried), October 8, 1693, (not 1683, as *Savage* hath it), caused by a fall, while intoxicated, from the bank of the Little River, in Hartford, closed his unhappy career.

Meantime, both parsonage and meeting house had been largely improved. In the King Philip's Indian War (1675-76), Mr. Bulkeley served both as chaplain and surgeon of the expeditionary forces—being evidently the most competent surgeon of the campaign. His grist-mill at Dividend was running as early as 1676, and in 1678, the Town opened a public road to it, and granted him 150 acres more of land.

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use of thre acres of grasse ground in the parsonage lot, next to the meadow gate, on that side next to Mr. Blackleech his lot, during his continuance here in that worke; and that Mr. Buckley, for his incouragement, should have the use and benefit of the housing and homestead that he liveth upon, and the remainder of the parsonage land, during his continuance here in Wethersfield, in the worke of the ministry.

"It was also voated and granted—that Mr. Buckley and Mr. Stone should have eleven score acres of land, betwixt them, about the mouth of Diuidend Brook, abutting upon the Great River, lying in a square, adjoyning to Middletowne bounds; that is to say: that Mr. Bulkly shall haue six score acres of land there, and Mr. Stone one hundred acres; for themselves, and their heires, forever upon condition that they shall settle as officers to the Church here in Wethersfield during their lives."

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 102.

In October, 1676, Mr. Bulkeley sought a dismissal from his clerical functions, largely on a plea of impaired health, especially "by reason of the weakness of his voice," arising from his exposures in the recent Indian campaign. He ceased—probably by 1677—to continue his ministerial duties, which had been performed by the Rev. JOSEPH ROWLANDSON (sometimes written Rawlinson), since about April of that year. After his withdrawal his time seems to have been largely devoted to the practice of medicine (his name thereafter usually appearing upon the records with the prefix of "Doct."). He was noted for his scholarship and for his knowledge of Law, Theology and Medicine. He also took a lively interest in Wethersfield affairs, and in Colonial politics, and wrote several treatises, especially one published in 1692, entitled "*Will and Doom*," in which he gave free vent to his ultra-loyalist sentiments.

He resided during the last 47 years of his active life in Wethersfield, his house being on the east side of Broad Street, located very nearly on the site of the home of Levi Warner's heirs. It was the site, also, of the house of Capt. Robert Seely, the Settler. Dr. Chapin (*Glaston. Centenn.*, p. 40), is in error in supposing that Mr. Bulkeley removed to the east side of the River, after his return from King Philip's War, and "continued there over 30 years." He *died* in Glastonbury, at the home of his daughter Dorothy, widow of Thomas Treat. In his will, dated May 26, 1712, he calls himself "Gershom Bulkley, of Wethersfield, *alias* G. Bulkley of Glastonbury." He was then 77 years old, and, as he himself says, very feeble; had "walked more than twenty years on the very mouth of the Grave." This explains why he did not get back to his home, and why his residence was supposed, by *Chapin* and others, to have been in Glastonbury. He died December 2nd, of the following year, his wife having died some years before. In his will, he bequeaths his law books, including his manuscript notes from Coke's Institutes, to his son, Edward, of Wethersfield (Rocky Hill); to his son, John, minister at Colchester, he gave his theological works, including manuscripts of his father and grandfather; and, to his grandson, Richard Treat, his works on medicine and chemistry, including some in the Latin, Greek and Dutch languages—some of which latter volumes are now in the library of Trinity College. His remains rest in the Old Burying Ground of Wethersfield, under a stone table-monument, on which is engraved the following inscription: "He was honorable in his descent | of rare abilities, extraordinary industry, | excellent in learning, | master of many languages, | exquisite in his skill | in divinity, physic and law; |

and of a most exemplary | and | Christian life. *In certam spem beatoe resurrectionis repositus.*"

Some of Mr. Bulkeley's descendants are in Wethersfield today, but most of them are in other places. Hon. Morgan G. Bulkely, once the Governor of Connecticut, and the late Lieutenant-Governor, W. H. Bulkely, were lineal descendants of Gershom, through his son, the Rev. John Bulkely, of Colchester. Further notice of this eminent Wethersfield citizen will be found in Chapters V and VII, and in the *Bulkely Geneal.*, in our Second Volume.

Rev. Gershom Bulkeley's published writings were:

1. *The People's Right to Election*, or Alteration of Government in Connecticut, argued in a Letter, by Gershom Bulkeley, Esq., one of their Majesties Justices of the Peace in the County of Hartford, Philadelphia. Printed by Assigners of William Bradford, *anno* 1689. 4 to., pp. 18.

2. *Will and Doom*; or the Miseries of Connecticut by and under an Usurped and Arbitrary Power. Written in 1692. Pub. in *Conn. Hist. Soc. Collections*, Vol. III, pp. 70-269. Hartford, 1895.

3. A pamphlet published at New York, 1694, entitled "*Some Seasonable Considerations for the Good People of Connecticut*," is said to have been written by Bulkeley. This pamphlet brought out an answer, with the title

*Their Majesties Colony in Connecticut in New England Vindicated from the Abuses of a Pamphlet*. Licensed and Printed at New York, 1694. Intitled, *Some Seasonable Considerations for the Good People of Connecticut*. By an Answer Thereunto. See *Conn. Hist. Soc. Collections*, Vol. I, pp. 83-130.

*Seventh Pastor*.—Rev. JOSEPH ROWLANDSON, who had been called from his home at "Lancaster, in the Bay Colony," by a vote taken at the "borough meeting," April 7, 1677, was born in England and was the *only* graduate of Harvard, in the class of 1652, being in himself the *whole* of that class; he had been the first settled minister at Lancaster, in 1656, and on the 10th of February, 1676, while he was absent from home,<sup>1</sup> the town was surprised and burned by the Indians and his wife and three children were captured. The youngest child died a

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<sup>1</sup> Cotton Mather, in his *Magnalia*, Book VII, Chap. VI, Sec. II, "The worthy minister of the Town, Mr. Rolandson, had been to Boston, to intercede for some speedy succors; and though by this journey from home, he was himself preserved, yet at his return he found his *House* on fire, his *Goods* and *Books* all burned, and which was worse, his *Wife* and *Children*, and *Neighbors*, in the Hands of the worst Bar-



few days after, in consequence of wounds received; but the other two, with their mother, were ransomed. He was installed at Wethersfield, 1677, on a salary of £100 per year, and the use of the "parsonage lands and houses," and a further settlement of £100 to be paid within five years after his coming, in annual installments of £25 per year, for five years. He died at Wethersfield, November 24, 1678, leaving some descendants. His wife was Mary (daughter of John) White, of Lancaster; the Town of Wethersfield voted his widow an "allowance of £30 per year so long as she remains a widow among us." Mr. Rowlandson lived in a house which he bought of Lieutenant John Buttolph, and which the latter bought of Deacon John Coleman, who removed to Hatfield, Mass. It stood on, or near, the N. W. corner of Main Street, and the street extending by the meeting house to Broad Street, about where the house, lately of E. M. Shepardson's stands.

Mr. Rowlandson's published works were:

1. *The Possibility of God's Forsaking a People, That have been Visibly Near and Dear to Him*, together with the Misery of a People thus Forsaken, set forth in a Sermon preached at Weathersfield, Nov. 21, 1678. Being a Day of Fast and Humiliation. Boston, 1682, 16 mo. Preface pp. (3) signed B. W.; and Text 22.

The same reprinted in *Somer's Tracts*, ed. 1812, viii, 582.

2. *The Sovereignty & Goodness of God*. A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson, wife of Rev. Joseph Rowlandson. Boston, 1682, 8 vo., pp. 73.

3. *Mary Rowlandson. Account of her Captivity and Sufferings by the Indians*, and her Restoration. Boston, 1773, 12 mo., pp. 40.

The first edition was printed in 1682, and had not less than 20 editions, of which the following are noted:

1. A Narrative of the Captivity, Sufferings and Removes of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson, who was taken prisoner by the Indians with several others and treated in the most barbarous and cruel manner by those vile savages. With many other remarkable events during her travels. Wood-cut on title. 12 mo., Boston, 1773.

2. An edition with similar title, 12 mo., Boston, 1794.

3. Another—title partly similar—"Written by herself. 18 mo., boards. Lancaster, 1828.

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barians in the world. This good man, like David at Ziklag, *yet believed*, for the Recovery of his Relations out of those horrible Hands, which about four or five months after was accomplished with wonderful Dispensations of Divine Providence, whereof the Gentlewoman herself has given us a *Printed Narrative*."

4. Another, with almost similar title, "Written by her own hand." 12 mo., cloth. Reprinted, Boston, 1856.

*Eighth Pastor.*—Rev. JOHN WOODBRIDGE, the next incumbent, was called and settled in 1679, at a salary of £100 per year. He was a son of Rev. John Woodbridge, who came from Stanton, Wiltshire, England, in 1634, and settled at Newbury, Mass., in 1635; and who was himself the son of another Rev. John, a celebrated Non-Conformist in England. The mother of John, Jr., was a daughter of Governor Dudley, of Massachusetts. The Wethersfield pastor graduated at Harvard in 1664; preached at Andover in 1666, and at Windsor, in 1668; is said to have been, previous to his call to Wethersfield, settled at Killingworth, Conn., 1666.<sup>1</sup> His younger brother, Rev. Timothy, was settled at Hartford, in 1685; and the whole family was and has ever been remarkably strong in clergymen, of more than average ability. Mr. Woodbridge pleased Weathersfield so well that, in 1686, the Town gave him 200 acres of land, being a fine farm, within the limits of the present Newington.<sup>2</sup> He had already, in 1680, bought from Josiah Gilbert and his wife, Rebecca, the house which the latter had inherited from her father, John Harrison; and which stood on the corner now occupied by the store of Mr. Damery, corner of High Street and Sandy Lane. He served his Church well until his death, in 1691; and Cotton Mather, in his *Magnalia*, thus mentions him: "Whiting of Hartford, WOODBRIDGE of Wethersfield, Wakeman of Fairfield will never be forgotten till Connecticut Colony do forget itself and all religion." His widow was tenderly cared for by the Town;<sup>3</sup> and his son John was settled as a pastor at Springfield, Mass. See, also, Chapter XIX.

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<sup>1</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I., p. 171.

"At the same meeting [March 25th, 1680], it was voated that Mr. Woodbridge [Rev. John] should have fowr seoar load of wood by way of rate," etc.

<sup>2</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, I, p. 194, Dec. 28th, 1685.

The Rev. Mr. Woodbridge was given two hundred acres of land, to be laid out by Serg. John Robbins, Emanuel Buck and Benj. Churchill, "in a convenient place, both for suteing Mr. Woodbridge and where the town can spare it." (This was laid out at the north end of Cow Plain).

<sup>3</sup> His widow remained in Wethersfield for some years after his death, during which she was tenderly cared for by the Town. The *Book of Town Votes* records under date of 25 Dec., 1693, a grant of £20 "for her comfort and maintenance; in Dec., 1694, the selectmen were directed to "hire a convenient house for Mrs. Woodbridge for the next yr.—the rent to be paid by the Town"; in 1696, a similar pension for that yr.; in 1697, a grant of £15 for "her encouragement and maintenance"; in 1698, a similar sum of £20, and Dec., 1701, the sum of £12. She finally removed to Simsbury, where she d. prob. at the home of her eld. son, Rev. Dudley, pastor of that Town, in 1710.

*Ninth (and Colleague) Pastor.*—During the last few years of Mr. Woodbridge's ministry and when his declining health rendered him unequal to the discharge of his duties, Rev. WILLIAM PARTRIDGE (Patrick) was employed (August, 1691), as an assistant. He was the son of Col. Samuel Partridge, of Hatfield, and his wife, Mehitabel, daughter of John Crowe, one of the first settlers of Hartford; he was born November 16, 1669, and graduated at Harvard, 1689. After Mr. Woodbridge's death he was "fully settled" by the Town, and in the following year he was granted 150 acres of the Town's land. He did not long live to enjoy his position, for, probably while on a visit, he died at Wallingford, September 24, 1693, at the early age of twenty-four.

*Tenth Pastor.*—The Rev. STEPHEN MIX was the next in order, in the succession of those who had been settled or "called" to the Wethersfield pulpit. He was destined to remain very much longer with his flock than any of his predecessors had done. He was the youngest child of Thomas Mix, of New Haven, his mother being Rebecca, daughter of Capt. Nathaniel Turner, of the same place.<sup>1</sup> He was born 1st November, 1672 and was graduated at Harvard in 1690. Upon the death of Mr. Partridge, in 1693, Mr. Mix was called to Wethersfield; Dr. Gershom Bulkeley, Capt. John Chester, John Chester, Jr., Capt. Robert Welles (grandson of Gov. Thomas), Deacons John Deming and William Warner, being the committee (truly a distinguished and representative one) sent by the Town to arrange the matter. On Dec. 1, 1696, he married Mary (daughter of Rev. Solomon) Stoddard of Northampton, Mass.<sup>2</sup> In 1697, he began to record the

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<sup>1</sup> Capt. Turner was of Lynn, Mass., in 1630, rem. thence to New Haven, 1638; and was lost at sea in Mr. Lamberton's ship, which sailed from New Haven, in Jan., 1646, as was likewise Thos. Gregson, of the same place, whose dau. Phebe afterwards became the wife of Rev. John Russell, Jr., second sett. minister of Wethersfield and 1st minister of Hadley, Mass.,—being at the time of her mar. the wid. of Rev. John Whitney, dec'd, third minister of Hartford, Ct.

<sup>2</sup> Goodwin, in his *Foote Genealogy*, preserves the following account of Mr. Mix's Courtship, taken, as he says from the Mss. of Judge Franklin Comstock, dec'd of Wethersfield.

"Soon after his settlement, Mr. Mix made a journey to Northampton, in search of a wife. On his arrival at Rev. Solomon Stoddard's, he made him acquainted with the object of his visit, and informed him that the pressure of duties at home made it necessary that he should proceed with all possible speed. Mr. Stoddard immediately took him into the room where his daughters were, and introduced him to Mary, Esther, Christiana, Sarah, Rebecca and Hannah, and retired. Mr. Mix lost no time in proceeding to business; but addressing Mary, the eldest daughter, said he had lately been settled in the ministry at Wethersfield and was desirous of obtaining a wife, and concluded by offering her his heart and hand. She blushing, replied,

membership of his church, the births, marriages and deaths as they occurred, together with other memoranda. It is in the form of a diary, a little, faded and frayed manuscript, now in the possession of the Clerk of the Church and is the oldest existing record kept by any of the ministers of the First Church of Wethersfield. A portion of its entries are in *shorthand*, the key to which has not yet been discovered.

Mr. Mix lived in a house which stood about where the late Judge Mitchell's house was—a few rods north of the present store. It was one of the six houses, ordered by the Town, in 1704, to be “fortified” for purposes of common defense. In 1711, the Governor and Council allowed him £3-6*d.* as indemnity for goods taken by the Colonial Commissariat for the then recent expedition against Canada. After an acceptable service in the ministry at Wethersfield for forty-four years, he died there, 28 August, 1738. The stone table over his grave contains the following inscription:

Here lies Interred the Body  
of the Rev. Mr. STEPHEN MIX,  
late pastor of the first church  
in Wethersfield; an able Min-  
ister, born in New Haven, and  
Educated at Cambridge College;  
who having served his gene-  
ration, by the Will of God,  
fell asleep, August 28th,  
1738, In the 66th year  
of his age, and 44th of  
his Ministry.

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that the proposition was as unexpected as it was important, and required time for consideration. He replied that he was not insensible of the solemnity of the marriage covenant, and was gratified to discover her unwillingness to enter into it, without suitable time for reflection;—that, in order to give her an opportunity to reflect upon the subject, he would walk into the other room and smoke a pipe with her father and she could report to him. Having smoked a pipe and sent a message to Mary that he was ready to receive her answer, she came into the room and asked for further time for consideration. He replied that she could reflect longer upon the subject, and communicate her decision by letter, addressed to him at Wethersfield. A few weeks afterwards, he received the following laconic epistle, which concluded the courtship and prepared the way for the marriage.

Northampton, 1696.

“Rev. Stephen Mix.

Yes.

Mary Stoddard.”



His funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Simon Backus, of Newington. The late Chief Justice Stephen Mix Mitchell, whose house on nearly the same site as that of his ancestor was demolished a few years ago, was a grandson of this venerable minister.

In 1701, the Town granted Mr. Mix fifty acres of land of the common known as the "Mile in Breadth," the tract thus given adjoining the Middletown line on the south and situate in Beckley's Quarter—now in Berlin. In 1725, his salary was £120 per annum, together with a supply of fuel and the use of the parsonage lands. This seems to have been the last change made in it.

Mr. Mix, August 12th, 1738, conveyed to his son Elisha all his Wethersfield and Middletown lands, in consideration that he pay all his father's just debts and "furnishes all his sisters with a set of all the books the Rev. Mr. Solomon Stoddard of Northampton, put forth, excepting those that any of them have already." The books referred to were mostly of a religious and controversial character, and printed in London. (See Sprague's *Annals of the American Pulpit*.)

One of the most graceful writers of our own day, DONALD GRANT MITCHELL ("Ik Marvel") is a descendant of this Mr. Stoddard, through his daughter Mary, wife of Rev. Steph. Mix; through his daughter Rebecca, wife of James Mitchell, of Wethersfield; through his grandson Judge Stephens Mix Mitchell, of Wethersfield; through his son Rev. Alfred Mitchell. The distinguished Jonathan Edwards was a grandson of Mr. Stoddard, and preached his funeral sermon.

Mr. Mix's only published work was *The Substance of Two Sermons Occasioned by a Terrible Earthquake in New England and other parts of Northern America*, October 29, 1727; delivered at Wethersfield, November 5th and 12th. New London, 1728, 16 mo. pp. 236. (See Chapter XVII, of this work.)

Mr. Mix also delivered the *Election Sermon* in Connecticut, May 8, 1735. A copy was requested for publication, but no evidence is found that it was ever published.

In 1735, and perhaps earlier, it had become necessary, on account of Mr. Mix's "often infirmities," for the First Society (which now conducted parochial matters in place of the Town) to employ assistance for him, and their choice fell upon

*Eleventh Pastor*, Mr. JAMES LOCKWOOD, as an assistant; and as such he served for several months. About a week before Mr. Mix's death, a committee waited upon Mr. Lockwood to ask that he would preach a year on trial. But Mr. Mix's death accelerated matters and on the first day of November, 1738, he was formally invited to become

the settled pastor, to be paid £700 on settlement and an annual allowance of £220, the latter sum being increased in the following month to £250. On the 21st day of December, Mr. Lockwood signified his acceptance of the call. The contract for settlement provided for a return of the £100 settlement money, if the pastor should embrace or hold "any doctrine or tenet, or practice in such unlawful manner as should render him, in y<sup>e</sup> judgment of the ministers of y<sup>e</sup> Association to which I belong, unfit for a gospel minister to said society." The ordination sermon was preached February 28, 1739, by Rev. Wm. Russell, of Middletown; "charges" of the ordination, paid by the society, were £35-16*d*.

Mr. JAMES LOCKWOOD was born in Norwalk, Conn., 20th December, 1714, and was the son of James (and Lydia) Lockwood, grandson of Ephraim, who was of Watertown, Mass., 1634, and who removed to Fairfield, Conn., prior to 1658. Mr. Lockwood, graduated at Yale, 1735, and served one year thereafter as tutor. When he came to Wethersfield, it was stipulated, among other things, that in whatever currency his salary was paid, it should be in value equal to 185 oz. of coined silver, Troy weight, to constitute or be in lieu of the £250. At that time (1738) sixty-five ounces silver was added to his salary. In December, 1755, he was paid £1,000 "old tenor," as his salary for the previous year. In the following year it was £1,125. This illustrates the fluctuations in the Colonial currency of those days. Mr. Lockwood married 4 November, 1742, Mary (daughter of Rev. Moses Dickinson, of Norwalk, Conn., who survived him, dying 23 December, 1794, or '74).

Mr. Lockwood's settlement occurred just before the commencement of the Great Revival of 1740. Dr. Trumbull mentions him among the ministers most favorable to Whitfield's movements; and there is a tradition at Wethersfield, that the great itinerant made several visits there; and that, as the meeting house was unable to accommodate the multitudes who thronged to hear him, he held a meeting, at least on one occasion, in the open air. There is no doubt that Mr. Lockwood not only fully sympathized with, but co-operated with him to the extent of his ability.

Mr. Lockwood was one of the most scholarly men of his time, and his reputation as a preacher and instructor was widely extended. Many of his sermons were printed. In January, 1767, he was waited upon by a large number of citizens of Wethersfield, who under the lead of Col. John Chester, Sen<sup>r</sup>., had subscribed nearly £300 as a testimonial of their friendship and esteem in which their minister was held.

The following is a copy of the subscription paper, made by Mr. S. W. Adams, in 1882, from the original, then in possession of the late Hon. J. Hammond Trumbull, of Hartford:<sup>1</sup>

The amount thus raised was expended in the erection of a dwelling house for Mr. Lockwood; probably a much larger sum was raised in other ways, as the house was one of the largest and finest in its time.

<sup>1</sup> We, the Subscribers, considering the eminent & faithful services of the Rev<sup>d</sup>. Mr. Lockwood as minister of the Gospel in the First Society in Wethersfield, and the affectionate regard for the people of his charge, plainly manifested in his refusal to leave us when urged to accept the office of President of the College in the New Jerseys; & more lately, when universally chosen President of the College at New Haven; considering also the house Mr. Lockwood now dwells in is inconvenient, and in no measure suitable for a Gentleman of his character, and disreputable to said Society—do therefore, as an evidence of our grateful acknowledgement of his said services & refusing to leave us as aforesd, and for his better accommodation, each of us freely promise to pay to [*Messes Ezel Williams, Silas Deane & Samuel May*] crossed out] such persons as we shall appoint to take the oversight thereof, the sums by us respectively subscribed with our names; either in labour, brick, stone, timber or other materials, for building a dwelling house for said Mr. Lockwood; or in such produce of the country as will purchase said materials, at the current price at time of payment, to be determined by the said [*Williams, Deane & May*," crossed out] persons who shall be appointed as above, or any two of them.

Wethersfield, February, A. D., 1767.

John Chester	£ 20: 0: 0	James Curtis	1: 10: 0
David Goodrich	3: 0: 0	Elisha Wolcott	2: 10: 0
Ebenezer Belding	15: 00: 0	Thomas Hurlburt	3: 10: 0
Jonas (?) Belding	10: 0:	Josiah Robbins	3: 0: 0
Thos. Dickinson	3: 0: 0	Charles Bulkley	2: 6: 0
Elijah Crane	1: 0:	Ebenezer Wright	5: 0: 0
Hez. May & Hez. Jr.	10: 0: 0	Simeon Belding	5: 0: 0
Nathl. Stillman	8: 0: 0	Elisha Treat	3:
John Crane	1: 0: 0	Hosea Harris	} 2: 0: 0 or 40 Boards.
Jonth. Wills	3: 0: 0		
Silas Deane etc., estate of J.		Saml. Dix, 4 day's work.	
Webb decd.	14: 0: 0	Richard Mountague	1: 10: 0
Solomon Welles	10: 0: 0	[From this point down, the	
Gershom Blin	1: 10:	names appear to be written	
Gershom Nott	5: 0: 0	by Tho. Belden. S. W. A.]	
Charles Bordman	1: 10:	Ames Ford (?)	2: 10:
Jo. Farnsworth	2: 0: 0	Stephen Willard	2: 10:
James Barrett	2: 0: 0	Joseph Richards	1: 10:
Saml. Rose	10: 0: 0	Joseph Welles	4:
James Welles	4: 10: 0	Justus Riley	1: 10
John Welles 4th (?)	3: 0: 0	Saml. Woodhouse	1:
Samuel Deming	4:	Alexander Roads	1:
Thos. Wright	11: 0: 0	Epht. Goodrich	1:
Josiah Deming	1: 10: 0	Josiah Griswold	£12: 0: 0
Elisha Wright	6: 0: 0	Jno. Renalls Jr.	1: 10: 0
Thos. Newson	1: 10: 0	Othniel Williams	2: 10: 0
Hezekiah Butler	4: 0: 0	Thos. Welles	12: 00: 0

It is still in good condition, being the dwelling (originally painted red) next north of the late Dr. E. F. Cooke's store. The glazed earthen tiles, the jambs and lintels bordering the old fireplace may still be seen and their pictures studied as they might have been over a century ago.

He was chosen a Fellow of Yale College, in 1760, and remained such until his death, 20 July, 1772. The brown stone table-monument over his remains, besides recounting his merits as a man and minister, records the fact that he was once a tutor of Yale College, and "one of y<sup>e</sup> Corporation," and was once offered the Presidency of the institution. It reads thus:

To the memory  
of the Rev. JAMES LOCKWOOD,  
Late pastor of the first church of Christ  
in Wethersfield;  
Who, in the 34th Year of his Ministry  
and 58th of his Age,  
on the 20th of July, 1772,  
Entered into the Joy of his Lord;  
As a Tutor, and afterwards one of y<sup>e</sup> Corporation  
of Yale College,  
highly venerated and esteemed;  
As a Minister of the Gospel, one whose praise  
is in the churches;  
Solicited to preside over two of the principal  
Acadamies in America,  
The Colleges at New Haven and Princeton,  
His affection for the people of his charge  
did not permit  
His acceptance of either of these honorable stations;  
But having respect unto the Recompense of Reward,  
finished the pious course he early began  
in the Gospel Ministry,  
And here resteth from his Labours  
Through Life exerted;  
The Bold to Court, and the Licentious Awe  
And Turn the Tide of Souls another way.

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Elisha Williams	10: 0: 0	David Williams will cart 3	
Ezekl. Williams	12: 0: 0	ld Timber & do other work	
Ezekiel Porter	12: 0: 0	to ye value of	1: 10:
Thomas Belding	10: 0: 0	Elizur Goodrich Jr	10: 0: 0
Wm. Warner	10: 0: 0	Jam <sup>s</sup> . Curtis, 5000 [or 1000?]	
Elizur Goodrich	10: 0: 0		[Bords 2:



[Pres. Stiles' *Diary* (I, 253), notices Mr. Lockwood's death, and gives the following quaint and close description of him:

"He was a Man of little Stature; a good Classic Scholar, and ingenious in Mathematics and Philosophy. Of a polite Taste, a ready Elocution, and performed the office of the Ministry in the House of God and among his People with good Acceptance. He was a Man of Caution and Prudence and avoided intermeddling deeply in any of the religious Controversies. This Caution and Wisdom, together with the goodness of his public performances, made the World think him a deeper and greater Man than he really was. He was a pretty, ingenious Man; not a great Man, neither in intellectual power, or Acquirements. He was famed for usefulness, and was an Honor to the Ministry. He was a Calvinist; and more lately has been supposed to incline to the New Divinity—his bro. Rev. Mr. L., of Andover, being fully in it. He was a Gentleman of sober Deportment, carrying rather a grave Severity in his Countenance, yet far from Moroseness; there was Vivacity in his manner; his Cheerfulness was regulated with Prudence and Circumspection. He was one of those good natural powers, who through proper Cultivation, soon came to Maturity. Besides the Academic Sciences, he applied to Systematic Theology; and

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John Pearse, 5000 <i>Larth</i>	3:	Gideon Deming	1: 10: 0
David Deming	6: 0: 0	Sam <sup>l</sup> . May	5: 0: 0
James Mitchell	12: 0: 0	Benja. Bulkley, 10 <i>day's work</i> .	
Ashbel Riley	10: 0: 0	John Frances	1: 0: 0
Silas Loomis	3: 0: 0	Aaron Belding	
Joseph Flower	4: 5: 0	Moses Dix, 4 <i>day's work</i> .	
Elisha Deming	3: 0: 0	John Rennalls, three pounds.	
Robert Francis	4: 10: 0	Nath <sup>l</sup> . Coleman	1: 0: 0
William Woodhouse	1: 10:	Amasa Addams, 4 <i>day's work</i> .	
Nath <sup>l</sup> Stillman Jur.	2: 0: 0	Benjamin Adams	1: 10: 0
Josiah Francis	2: 0: 0	to be paid in Joner work.	
Peter Verstille	5: 0: 0	Benezer Hale	4:
Elijah Wright	2: 0: 0	Joseph Butler	1:
Nath <sup>l</sup> . Goodrich	2: 0: 0	Silas Buck [Titus?]	1:
Elizur Wright	1: 0: 0	Wm. Butler	2:
John Russell	4: 0: 0	Feb'y 26th, 1767. Total £280	7

The subscribers to the foregoing, being met, after suitable warning at the Meeting House in s<sup>d</sup>. 1st Society on the 24th day of Feb'y, 1767, made choice of Messrs. Thomas Belding, Ezl. Williams & Silas Deane, to be a comtee. to receive the above Subscriptions & apply them for the purpose of building a House, as proposed.

[The House in question was occupied after Mr. Lockwood's decease by Capt. Justus Riley; afterward, by Chester Bulkley, who married Capt. Riley's daughter, Martha. It is now, 1903, occupied by the widow of Marshall Harris; the latter having purchased it after Mr. Bulkley's decease. Originally red, its color is now white, and the house is in good habitable condition.—S. W. A.]

*Ridgely* and *Willard* contained all his Knowledge this way. He soon laid in a stock from these and a few such Authors, which he spent upon all his life; and I am inclined to suppose he was as great a Divine at the age of 30, as at his Death. I was intimately acquainted with him 24 years ago, and occasionally all along since. He spent his Labors in a large parish of perhaps 300 Families, who are said to be as well instructed in Religion as any Church in Connecticut. He has had the prudence to lead that Flock in great Peace and Love through his Ministry. He preached and printed two Election Sermons (which I heard him deliver) in 1754 and 1759. He printed a Sermon on the Death of Rector Williams, and perhaps others."

Mr. Lockwood's published works were:

1. *Religion the highest Interest of a Civil Community, and the surest means of its Prosperity.* A sermon preached before the General Assembly of the Colony, on the Day of the Anniversary Election, May 9, 1754, New London, 1754, 16 mo., pp. 50. Text: 1 Sam. xii, 14.

2. *Man Mortal; God Everlasting;* and the sure unfailing Refuge and Felicity of his faithful People, in all generations. Illustrated in a Discourse Delivered at Wethersfield, July 27, 1755, being the next Lord's Day, after the Death of Hon. Col. Williams, New Haven, 1756, 8 vo. pp. 48, xv.

3. *The Duty and Privilege of Gospel Ministers to Preach among Mankind the innumerable Riches of Christ.* A sermon delivered at the Ordination of the Rev. Mr. Eleazer May, at Haddam, June 30, 1756. New Haven, 8 vo. pp. 34.

4. *The Tears of an affectionate, bereaved People,* wept over their faithful, deceased minister. A sermon preached at Glastonbury, August 7, 1758, being the day of the Interment of the Rev. Mr. Ashbel Woodbridge. New Haven, 8 vo.

5. *The Worth and Excellence of Civil Freedom and Liberty illustrated,* and a Public Spirit and the Love of our Country recommended. A sermon delivered before the General Assembly, at Hartford, on the day of the Anniversary Election, May 10, 1759. New London, 1759, 16 mo. pp. 36. Text: Acts xxii, 38.

6. *A Sermon preached at Wethersfield, July 6, 1763, at a Public Thanksgiving,* on Account of the Peace, Concluded with France and Spain. New Haven, 1763, 8 vo. pp. 36.—*H. R. S.*]

[*The Twelfth Pastor* was the Rev. JOHN MARSH, S. T. D., born at Haverhill, Mass., 2 June, 1742, O. S., and descended from one of four Marsh brothers, who early settled in New England, one at Hingham, one at Hadley, Mass., and one at Hartford, Conn., while the

fourth brother returned to the Old Country. It was a family noted for its piety, and Mr. Marsh's father, David (son of John, son of Anesiphorus, son of George, of Hingham), was a deacon for many years in the Haverhill Church, and died November, 1777 or '79; his wife Mary Moody, was a woman of superior excellence, and died August, 1794, age 90 years, survived by all of her twelve children, all of whom lived to old age, and of whom the subject of our sketch was the seventh son born in succession. In his fifth year, he met with an accident by which the forefinger of his right hand was cut off, and the others partially severed, so that, although saved, they never could be straightened, but fortunately were bent in such a manner, that he was enabled to write, carve and even make pens with that hand. Fitting for College at Haverhill, he entered Harvard College, in 1757, and graduated therefrom in 1761, æ. 19. He immediately took up school teaching at his native place, and soon commenced the study of theology with Rev. Mr. Edward Bernard of Haverhill. He was licensed to preach, probably, about 1765, and was for nine years a candidate, preaching at various places, among which were Hampton Falls, N. H., and a parish on Cape Ann, where he was invited to settle. In 1771, he was chosen a tutor at Harvard, and while there supplied a church at Douglass, Mass., and also the Old South Church at Boston. While still a Tutor, he, in company with Rev. Mr. Locke, the President of Harvard College (24 June, 1773), called upon Pres. Stiles of Yale, who thus records (*Lit. Diary*, I, 390) his impressions of the young man: "He is an ingenious and very sensible young man. I could discern genius in him, but had not time to weigh his talents and improvements. I take him to be a good scholar, and to fill his station with dignity. He is capable, with application, of becoming a very considerable man." In September, 1773, less than three months after this, Mr. Marsh received an invitation from the Wethersfield Church and Society which he complied with in the College vacation, during which time he boarded with Col. Belden, and after supplying the pulpit for four weeks, very duly invited to settle. Returning to Cambridge, he resigned his tutorship, and made the necessary preparations for his ordination, which took place, 12 January, 1774, the ordination sermon being preached by Rev. Mr. Woodward, of Weston, Mass. His salary was fixed at £135, and was then the largest salary in the State. He boarded at Col. Belden's for two years, when he became engaged to Miss Anne (daughter of Capt. Ebenezer) Grant, to whom, 6th December, 1775, he was married. The social standing of Capt. Grant, as the leading citizen of (East) Windsor, and the beauty and

accomplishments of the bride, rendered this marriage an event of great *eclat*. The guests were numerous, many from Boston, Springfield and other distant places, and after the ceremony, cake and wine were passed around, and followed by the then invariable custom of dancing, at weddings, which was joined in by all present—except the ministers. A rich supper followed; and after dinner, the next day, a large company attended the newly married couple across the river to Wethersfield, where they were met by twenty gentlemen, on horseback, who, opening to the right and left, escorted them and introduced them to the house in which they afterwards spent their wedded life—one for 45, the other for 61 years. Two bridesmaids, a Miss Chapman, from Boston, and a Miss Buckminstor, from Springfield, remained with them as guests for three months.

The house in which they were thus ceremoniously inducted, was that owned by Mr. Peter Burnham, is still in very servicable condition and known as the "Doctor Marsh house." After living in it for eleven years, Mr. Marsh purchased and enlarged it by an addition on the east end.

His charge was, in some respects, a peculiar one, by reason of its social and intellectual aspect. Wethersfield at that period was a very *focus* of intellectual and polished society, the members of which, descended from the first settlers of the Connecticut Valley retained, in a marked degree, their high tone of morals, their independent spirit, strong sense, kind feeling, and courtesy of manner, which they inherited from their noble ancestry. Their sons were liberally educated, and their daughters accomplished in the useful and elegant arts of the day. Mr. Marsh found himself associated and supported by "men of affairs" and enlarged minds such as Col. Chester, Judge Stephen Mix Mitchell, Col. E. Porter Belden, the Williams' and others of kindred spirit, with whom he formed intimate and most pleasant associations; and his congregation embraced, at this period, not less than thirty college-bred men; this, to one of his literary tastes and highly polished manner, must have formed an additional attraction to his chosen field of labor.

Besides this, he had an extensive personal acquaintance, in many cases of the most intimate nature, with a majority of the clergy and the finest and godliest men in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and even in other States; and their frequent visits to him, or his to them, in his annual chaise-tours through New England, resulted in his house being an ever open fount of hospitality, which Mrs. Sigourney once characterized as "beautiful."

As to Mr. Marsh's theology, his son says (the italics are our own—



*H. R. S.*): "He was, I believe, a man who feared God from his youth—one of those who are drawn to Christ by the early instruction of pious parents, as he seemed never to have known the time when he had not a respect and love for religion. His sentiments were evangelical. He belonged, however, to the liberal class of divines, which existed in Massachusetts, when he came upon the stage. *It was for this reason that he was invited to preach and settle at Wethersfield; the Church there having recently cast off the Consociation and inclined to the then existing liberal party.* With them he continued while any of them lived. His associates in theology were Willard and Barnard, and Whitney and Dana and Lathrop, but he never fell into the views of the rising men of that party, respecting the person and work of Christ. So serious and evangelical was he in preaching, and so prudent in all things, that he was always highly respected by the clergy in Connecticut, and when, in later periods, the subject of theology was more clearly defined and it was perceived that the points which separated them were not essential, and that he did not, with the liberal clergy of Massachusetts, become a Unitarian, they gradually conformed to each other, and it was hardly known by the younger clergy that any difference had ever existed." Further, his son says: "His religion was highly practiced, it had a constant and happy influence over his whole life and convention. It made him gentle, patient under suffering, submissive to the Will of God, and benevolent to man; he was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost."

Rev. Dr. Marsh's personality was striking; of middle stature, he was at forty, corpulent, but though he became thin towards the later part of his life, yet the antique costume which he so long retained, served to give him an appearance of weight and dignity, we might almost say of majesty, never to be forgotten. His features were good, the expression majestic, yet placid, the eyes piercing but mild, and he was uniformly neat in dress, and impressively urbane in manner. At home he usually wore a bombazine gown of green, or of calico, according to the season. If engaged in any domestic or agricultural labor, his dress was suited to the work. But, if called from it to see any visitors, he would always change his garment and put himself in a respectable garb, on the principle of never degrading his profession as a Christian minister, by an unseemly appearance. When he went abroad to visit his people, or to the house of God, he always dressed punctiliously in the clerical costume of his earlier days, viz.: a white wig, black broad cloth coat, satin underclothes, [knee breeches], silk hose, and knee and shoe buckles of silver, and, in common with other



THE RESIDENCE OF THE REV. DR. JOHN MARSH.



THE "OLD CLOCK ON THE STAIRS" IN THE MARSH HOUSE.



gentlemen, he wore one of the large cloaks, then termed "Huzzars," and a large brimmed cocked hat. Civilians wore their hair high on the forehead and powdered with a long queue at the back. The more opulent dressed in complete suits of broadcloth, satin underclothes, vests long and richly embroidered; paste knee and shoe buckles. By that care of his clothes, which was the *habit* of gentlemen of that day, Mr. Marsh kept his clothes serviceable for a long time; his venerable "Huzzar" served over forty years good wear. When he came to Wethersfield, his hair was long and beautiful, but it was cut off, in order that, according to the fashion of the day, he might don the clerical wig, viz: "At which," says his son, "I have heard him say, he wept." This wig, which he wore until the day of his death, was large, full bottomed and of snowy whiteness, and he always took great care of it. His son says: "When a boy I sat by him on the evening before the Sabbath, and saw him comb, oil and powder it, that it might adorn his head while serving the altar. It gave him a venerable appearance, and though of later years, wigs were not used, yet his people and friends did not wish him to lay it aside, nor did he think it would be safe, as it might expose him to deafness, to which his family were subject. During the greater part of his life he wore a three-cornered hat, which he exchanged, about 1812, for a round one, a gift from his friend Mr. Andrew Bremmer, of Boston. He generally walked with a cane, and I can now seen him coming down the street, by his garden fence, with great agility, striking his cane with firmness, and with his head inclined as in close meditation." From this filial sketch, our readers can well imagine this imposing figure of the Wethersfield pastor, as he appeared at the Harvard and Yale commencements, which he religiously and regularly attended.

He was, indeed, a marked man on all such public occasions; and frequently invited to ecclesiastical councils, etc. His last public service of this kind, was the ordaining prayer at New Haven, at the induction of President Day to the presidency of Yale College. In 1801, he was chosen a member of the Corporation of Y. C., on which he served until the year before his death.

In 1806, he received the General Association of Connecticut at his home, dined them all the first day of their session, and treated them with great attention for three days; in 1808, he received the degree of LL. D. from Harvard University, and was, from its formation, a member of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He preached before Gen. Washington, on the occasion of the latter's



visit to Wethersfield, to meet Count Rochembeau; and dined with the General several times, to him always a matter of pleasant remembrance.<sup>1</sup>

Strength and health began to fail him, about 1815, and he gratefully accepted the Society's offer to procure a colleague for him, their united choice falling upon Mr. Tenney, who ultimately became his successor. He died 13th September, 1821, age 79, after forty-five years of faithful ministry, during which he had baptized 1,878 persons, married 723 couples, and admitted 690 to the Church; and the Church books evince the order and care with which these things were duly recorded by him. Among his descendants are numbered the children of the late Hon. Richard H. Dana, Jr., who married one of his daughters, and those of the late O. T. Daggett, D.D., who married another daughter. It may be said here, that Mrs. Marsh was in every way a fit and noble companion to her honored husband; beauty of features and character, a mind of uncommon brightness, cultivated at the best schools of Hartford and New Haven; accomplished in all housewifely duties, and a soul elevated and sustained by a deep religious sense, rendered her not only a blessing to her own children, and friends, but to the whole community over whose spiritual welfare her husband presided.

Rev. Mr. Marsh's published works, were:

1. *The Great Sin and Danger of Striving with God.* A Sermon preached at Wethersfield, December 13th, 1782, at the Funeral of Mrs. Lydia Beadle, Wife of the late William Beadle, and their Four Children, who were all murdered by his own Hands on the morning of the 11th instant. \* \* \* To which is Annexed a letter, from a gentleman in Wethersfield to his Friend, containing a Narrative of the Life of William Beadle (so far as it is known) and the Particulars of the Massacre of himself and Family. Hartford [1783]. 8vo., pp. 39.

2. *A Discourse Delivered at Wethersfield,* December 11th, 1783. Being a Day of Public Thanksgiving, Throughout the United States of America. \* \* \* Hartford [1784]. 8 vo., pp. 22. 300 copies printed by vote of the Eccl. Soc.

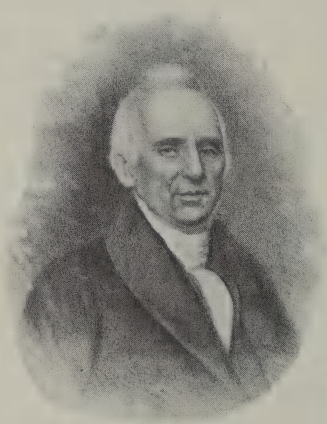
3. *A Sermon, preached before His Honor Oliver Wolcott, Esq., LL. D., Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief, and the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut,* convened at Hartford, on the Day of the Anniversary Election, May 12th, 1796. Hartford, MDCCXCVI. 12 mo., pp. 34. Text, Neh. V, 19.

4. *A Sermon delivered at the Installation of the Rev. William Lock-*

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<sup>1</sup> Rev. John Marsh, D. D.—A MSS. of Reminiscences, written for his sister Ann, and now in possession of Mrs. Henry F. Wild, of Cambridge, Mass.





*C. F. Tenny.*

wood in the pastoral office over the First Church in Glastonbury, August 30, 1797. Hartford, 1797. 8 vo., pp. 35.

5. *A Discourse delivered in Wethersfield at Funeral of the Honorable John Chester, Esq.*, who died November 4th, 1809, in the 61st year of his age. Hartford, 1809. 8 vo., pp. 24.

The sermon at Mr. Marsh's ordination was published:

*A Sermon preached at the Ordination of the Reverend Mr. John Marsh*, to the pastoral care of the First Church in Wethersfield, Connecticut, January xii, 1774. By Samuel Woodward, A. M., Pastor of the Church in Weston. New Haven [1774]. 8 vo., pp. 30.

Sermons occasioned by the death of Mr. Marsh:

*A Sermon delivered at the funeral of Rev. John Marsh, D. D.*, pastor of the First Church in Wethersfield, Connecticut, who died on the 13th of September, 1821, in the 79th year of his age, and 48th of his ministry. By Calvin Chapin, D. D., pastor of the Third Church in Wethersfield. Hartford, 1821. 8 vo., pp. 32.

*Ministers must die.* A Sermon preached September 16, 1821. The Sabbath after the interment of the Rev. John Marsh, D. D., senior pastor of the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, Connecticut. By Caleb J. Tenney, surviving pastor. Hartford, 1821. 8 vo., pp. 19.

*Thirteenth Pastor.*—Mr. CALEB JEWETT TENNEY succeeded Dr. Marsh in 1821, having been a colleague of the latter, since 1816. His salary which as colleague had been \$650, was, on his coming to the full pastorate, increased to \$1,000. He was born at Hollis, N. H., May 3, 1780, and was a descendant of William Tenney, from England, one of the first settlers of Rowley, Mass.; graduated at Dartmouth College, 1801, receiving the highest honor in his class, of which Daniel Webster was one. He was settled at Newport, R. I., in 1804, but ill health led to his resignation in 1814. Late in 1815, he was called to Wethersfield. He lived in great harmony with his aged colleague, though there was said to have been some shade of difference in their religious views; continuing in the work of the ministry, though his health was much of the time delicate, necessitating the aid of a colleague, until 1841. It was not an uncommon thing for him, voluntarily, to remit a part of his salary (from \$100 to \$175) on account, as he expressed it, of the "decrease in the ordinary expenses of living"—which speaks highly for his conscientious consideration for his people. His labors in Wethersfield were attended, at different periods, with a remarkable blessing. In 1820-21, two hundred persons, of whom 79 were heads of families, were added to his Church as fruits of a revival; and again, another revival in 1831, numbered about 100 hopeful conversions,



among whom were several of his own children. In 1839, he received the degree of D. D. from Yale College.

A difficulty of the vocal organs, commencing in 1831, compelled him in 1833 to desist from preaching altogether. Such, however, was the attachment of his people that they insisted on retaining him as their pastor; and on May 8, 1834, Rev. Eleazer C. Hutchinson was called to settle as a colleague, at \$1,000; but whether settled is uncertain, from Society Records; 1st July, 1835, Rev. Charles G. Warren was installed as colleague at a salary of \$800, but in February, 1837, resigned and removed to Canterbury, Conn. Mr. Tenney remained with the Wethersfield Church until 1840, when his regard to their interests impelled him to a resignation. He removed to Northampton in 1842, which was his home for the rest of his life; and where he became actively engaged in promoting the interests of the American Colonization Society. He died at N. in 1847. While a resident of Wethersfield, he lived in a house at the north end of Broad St., and which had been the birth place of Chief Justice Mitchell.

While residing in Connecticut, Dr. Tenney was an important factor in ecclesiastical and theological affairs, and especially in the establishing of the Theological Seminary at East Windsor.

An acquaintance of his from about the time of his settlement at Wethersfield, to the close of his life, says of him: "His personal appearance was hardly in keeping with the character of his mind. In stature, he scarcely reached the medium; and the expression of his countenance, though quiet and thoughtful, was not indicative of any extraordinary power. When I first met him, he seemed reserved—almost distant; but, as my acquaintance with him advanced, I found him social and cordial; and evidently possessing great depth and tenderness of feeling. And he not only felt deeply, but thought deeply—no one could fail to see that he had trained himself to nice discrimination and patient inquiry; though he conversed with great deliberation, and was uncommonly modest and retiring in his manner, he had always appropriate and weighty thoughts at command, especially on subjects of a theological or religious character. I think he was characteristically grave in his deportment. I have heard that in his family he was a model of everything lovely in domestic character, and that at the beds of the sick and the dying nothing could exceed the tenderness and appropriateness of his ministrations. In looking back upon my intercourse with him, I am deeply impressed with the idea that he possessed a princely intellect, which, on account of his great modesty, was never fully appreciated."—*H. R. S.*]

Mr. Tenney's published works were:

1. *A Summary View of God's Gracious Covenant with Abraham and his Seed; Of the Right and Design of the Baptism of Infants; And of the Mode of Baptism.* In Four Discourses. By Caleb J. Tenney, A. M., Pastor of the First Congregational Church, Newport. \* \* \* Newport, R. I., 1808. 8 vo., pp. 96.

2. *The Temperate use of Ardent Spirits.* Two Discourses, preached to the First Congregational Society in Newport, R. I., July 24, 1814. \* \* \* Newport, 1815.

3. *The Benefit of the Christian Ministry.* A Sermon preached at Boston, June 26, 1816, at the Ordination of the Rev. Royal Robbins. Hartford, 1816. 8 vo., pp. 18.

4. *Sermon on Death of Rev. John Marsh.*—See Marsh.

5. *New England Distinguished.* A Discourse preached in Wethersfield, November 29, 1827, being the Day of Thanksgiving; with an Appendix [Historical]. Wethersfield, 1828. pp. 16.

6. *Mysterious events to be explained.* A Sermon preached at Glastonbury, December 8th, 1830, as the Funeral of the Rev. Samuel Austin, D. D. Hartford, 1831. 8 vo., pp. 27.

7. *A Sermon preached at Wethersfield, January 1st, 1832, on the Death of Rev. Alfred Mitchell, of Norwich City.* Hartford, 1832. 8 vo., pp. 24.

8. *A Sermon preached at the Ordination of the Rev. Caleb J. Tenney.* To the pastoral care of the First Congregational Church of Christ in Newport, September 12, 1804. By Asa Benton, D. D. \* \* \* Newport [N. D.]. pp. 24.

*Fourteenth (and Colleague) Pastor.*—REV. CHARLES J. WARREN was installed 1st July, 1835, as Dr. Tenney's assistant; dismissed 1st February, 1837. See Tenney, above.

*Fifteenth (and Colleague) Pastor.*—REV. ROBERT SOUTHGATE, was installed 7th February, 1838, and on Dr. Tenney's resignation 12th January, 1841, became sole pastor of the Church. He was born at Portland, Me., 28 Jan., 1808; graduated Bowdoin College, 1826, and from Andover Theological Seminary, 1829, and took an additional year at Yale Divinity School; was pastor at Woodstock, Vt., 1831-1836; "his ministry at Wethersfield must be accounted as among the spiritually richest in the history of the Church. The greater part of it was a time of revival, and in the five years during which it continued, 175 were added to the Church;"<sup>1</sup> he resigned 22 Nov., 1843, and from 1845-

<sup>1</sup> Sprague's *Annals of the American Pulpit*, II., 472-475.

49 was at Monroe, Mich., supplied the pulpit at Wilmington, N. C., for a time; from 1850 to March, 1867, was settled at Ipswich, Mass.; in 1870 was called to the Church at Hartford, Vt., where he remained until his death, 6 Feb., 1873. He was a welcome occasional occupant of his old pulpit in Wethersfield. The

*Sixteenth Pastor*, Rev. Dr. MARK TUCKER, b. at Whitestown, N. Y., 17 June, 1795; grad. Union Coll. 1814; was settled at Albany, N. Y., 1816; at Stillwater, N. Y., 1817; at Northampton, Mass., 1824; Troy, N. Y., 1827; Providence, R. I., 1837-45; rec'd degree of D.D. from Williams' Coll. 1831, and became a corporate member, 1838, of the A. B. C. F. M.; was installed at Wethersfield, 15 Oct., 1845; he was an amiable man, a faithful pastor and a popular preacher. In 1855, ill health compelled his resignation and his pastorate here closed 24 March, 1856. Subsequently he became pastor of the Church at Vernon, Ct., where he remained until 1862; he spent the last years of his life in Wethersfield, where he died, 19 March, 1875, and was honored by the First Society with a funeral at its expense. He published many sermons in *The National Preacher*, and several in pamphlet form, among which were:

1. *Rejoice with Trembling. A Thanksgiving Sermon*, preached at the First Congregational Meeting House in Wethersfield, November 26th, 1846. Hartford, 1846. 8 vo., pp. 16.

2. *Sermon at Interment of Rev. Calvin Chapin*.—See Chapter XIX.

Two publications relating to Dr. Tucker may here be noted, viz.:

1. *Official Documents of the Presbytery of Albany*, exhibiting the Trials of John Chester and Mark Tucker [then of Troy, N. Y.]. Schenectady, 1818. 8 vo.

2. *A Statement of Facts in Relation to the Call and Installation of Rev. Mark Tucker over the Society in Northampton*. Northampton, 1824. 8 vo., pp. 35.

*Seventeenth Pastor*.—Rev. WILLIS S. COLTON, installed as pastor at Wethersfield, 17 Sept., 1856, is a native of Royalton, N. Y., b. 25 June, 1828, the youngest of a family of seven sons and two daughters; an eminently ministerial family, the father and six of his sons being graduates of Y. C. and of the clerical profession. Mr. C. grad. Y. C. 1850, and Yale Divinity School, 1856, and was from 1852-56 tutor in the College. He remained in the Wethersfield pastorate until July 18, 1866; removed to Washington, Ct., where he served nearly eleven years, then another eleven years (1877-88) at Warren, Ct., then five

years at Wayne, Mich., whence he resigned June 1, 1893, and now (1903) res. at Toledo, Ohio. His son, Arthur Colton, is well known as a writer.

During the interval of nearly two years which intervened between Mr. Colton's resignation at Wethersfield, and the settlement of a new pastor, the Rev. Dr. J. C. Bodwell, Professor in the Hartford Theological Seminary, and Rev. Dr. O. E. Daggett, formerly pastor of the South Church in Hartford, and afterward of the Church in Yale College, occupied the pulpit at Wethersfield with great ability and acceptability. Dr. Daggett's ministry here at this and various other times, if it had been made continuously, would have equalled a pastorate of nearly two years. Mention may also be made of Rev. W. W. ANDREWS, for more than thirty years a resident of Wethersfield, and who though belonging to another communion and church organization was yet a lover of the Church of God in all its forms, and whose genial spirit and godly life, and not infrequent ministerial service in this pulpit, and yet oftener at the burial of our dead, was a perpetual testimony to the truth and love of God, and brought comfort to many sorrowing hearts.

*Eighteenth Pastor.*—Next, after Mr. Colton, came Rev. AARON C. ADAMS, born in Bangor, Me., 7 April, 1815; graduated at Bowdoin College in 1836; studied at Lane Theological Seminary, Cincinnati, O., and at Bangor Theological Seminary, from which latter institution he was graduated in 1839. He occupied pastorates at Gardiner, Me., Malden, Mass., and Auburn, Me., before coming to Wethersfield, where he was installed 18 March, 1868; remaining here until 30 June, 1879. He was subsequently pastor of the church at Thompson, Conn., for about eight years—and returned to Wethersfield, where he has since resided; having had charge of a church in Rocky Hill, for several years.

Rev. A. C. Adams' published works were:

1. *Historic Sketch of the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield*, given from the pulpit, July 9, 1876. Hartford, 1877. 8 vo., pp. 24.
2. *Fifty Years among the Ministers and Churches*. A Sermon preached to the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, Connecticut, July 21, 1889. Hartford, 1889, pp. 24.
3. *H. S. A., 1813-1892*. [A memorial of Harriet Sargent Adams. By Rev. A. C. Adams, 1893.] pp. 26.

*Nineteenth Pastor.*—Rev. LEWIS W. HICKS, native of Charleston, Mass., succeeded to the Wethersfield pastorate, 14 September, 1881, at salary of \$1,500. Born in 1845, he graduated at Yale in 1870, and



at the Hartford Theological Seminary in 1874. His first pastorate was at Woodstock, Vt., from 1874-1881. In 1887, a bronchial affection obliged him to spend a winter in the South to regain his health; but, no permanent benefit ensuing, he resigned his office 26 September, 1888, and went West, where he took charge of the church at Pueblo, Col., in the fall of that year; and later, 1890, of one at Denison, Texas. He returned East in May, 1892, and was pastor of the church at Wellesley, Mass., where he was installed 13 December, 1892. He now resides at Hartford and preaches occasionally.

*Twentieth Pastor.*—Rev. WILLIAM H. TEEL, of New York City, a graduate of Hamilton College and of Union Theological Seminary, succeeded him, 24 April, 1889, at salary of \$1,500 and transportation. Dismissed 1 Jan., 1895. He is at present pastor of a church at Vernon, Connecticut.

*Twenty-first Pastor.*—March 3, 1896, the Rev. WILLIAM MOULDING BAKER was inducted into full pastoral relations with this ancient church, on a salary of \$1,500, and transportation from England. Mr. Baker is a native of Leyland, Eng.; grad. 1880, from the Methodist Coll. at Leeds, Yorkshire, Eng., labored as a missionary in Manitoba and in 1884, removed to Minnesota, where he became pastor at Crookston. Returning to England on a visit in 1887, he became a member of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, and accepted the pastorate of the Congregational Church in Leyland, Eng., his native place. From there he was called to the charge of the Church at Bilston, a suburb of Wolverhampton, where he labored successfully for five years. Coming again, in 1895, with his wife, who is a native of Canada, on a visit to the United States, he was providentially brought to the notice of the Wethersfield Church, where he was installed—the Church thus again (after an interval of 218 years, from the death of Rev. Joseph Rowlandson, in 1678), coming under the preaching of an English-born minister. He was dismissed 2 March, 1899.

*Twenty-second Pastor.*—Rev. GEORGE LARKIN CLARK, the present, became pastor in June, 1899. He was born 16 Aug., 1849, in Tewksbury, Mass.; was educated at Lowell High School, grad. Amherst College, 1872; was at Yale Divinity School, for two years, but grad. at Union Theological Seminary, N. Y. City, 1876. His first pastorate was at Shelburne, Mass., 22 Dec., 1876, to spring of 1884; his next at Westerly, R. I., from spring of 1882, to last of Sept., 1888; at Farmington, Ct., 23 Oct., 1888, to June, 1899. See *Genealogies*.

This completes our record of the First Congregational Church in

Wethersfield, both as regards its ministers and its houses of worship. No other Congregational (or Presbyterian) organization has ever existed within the limits of the First Society; and no other church edifice of such denomination has been erected within the same limits.

GLASTONBURY.<sup>1</sup>—*The Second Church Organization from Wethersfield.*—On the east side of the River, at Naubuc, the people had been authorized by the General Court, May 8th, 1690, to organize both as a parish and township; Wethersfield having consented Dec. 26th, 1689. Nevertheless, the east-side inhabitants were in no hurry to become a separate body politic; and it was not till July 28th, 1692, that a minister was called. He had been preaching there since 17th of April of the same year. It was the Rev. TIMOTHY STEVENS, of Roxbury, Mass., son of Timothy Stevens. He had been graduated at Harvard College, in 1687, and probably had been settled at no other place. In strictness, Glastonbury's existence as a town dates from July, 1693; the date of Mr. Stevens' settlement as a "good orthodox minister," to use the words of the Act granting town privileges to the east-side people.

Mr. Stevens was born in 1665 (?) and was graduated at Harvard College in 1687. He began to preach in Glastonbury, says the Rev. Alonzo Chapin, D.D., in April, 1692; but was not ordained until after the completion of the meeting house, which was in October, 1693. His first wife, whom he married May 17th, 1694, was Eunice, daughter of John Chester, of Wethersfield. He died April 14th, 1726.

The meeting house was built on land, donated for that purpose, of John Hubbard and Samuel Smith. Each gave five acres, on the east side of the "country road," with a four-rod highway (reserved by the donors) between the two tracts. The tract given by each was ten rods wide and eighty rods long; being out of the lands originally owned by George Wyllys (?) and Robert Rose, respectively. It was afterward known as "The Green." By the terms of the gift, which was to the town—it was provided that a burying ground might be set apart in the same tract; and the ancient cemetery is in it. The Town House was also set upon it. But since the destruction of the first meeting house, by fire, in 1734, no similar structure has been placed on this tract.

The number of house holders in Glastonbury in 1690, was, as Dr. Chapin thinks, about thirty-four. Their names are in the following list:—Ephraim Goodrich, Joseph Smith, John Harrington, Thomas Brewer, Ebenezer Hale, John Strickland, John Hale, William House.

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<sup>1</sup> See latter part of Chapter IV, as to civil organization of Glastonbury.

Samuel Hall, Sen., Patrick Stearn [Streen (?)], Richard Treat, Sen., Thomas Treat, Richard Smith, John Hollister, Jonathan Smith, Sam. Hale, Jr., Sam. Smith, John Hubbard, Joseph Hills, John Kilbourn, Sam. Welles, Tho. Hale, Rich. Treat, Jr., Will. Wickham, Jonathan Hale, Benj. Hale, Tho. Hollister, Joseph Hollister, Sen., Joseph Hollister, Jur., Benj. Smith, Tho. Loveland, Joseph Bidwell, Rich. Fox, Nath. Talcott, Tho. Kimberly, Benj. Talcott, Daniel Wright, David Hollister, Ed. Benton, Will Miller, Sam. Gaines and Ephraim Hollister. The first twenty-four names are those of persons who signed the agreement to build the first meeting house. The full list is that of the signers to the petition to the General Assembly for ownership privileges for the inhabitants on the east side of the River.

It is the writer's belief that some in the foregoing list were *not* living on the east side of the River; and that there were householders on that side whose names do not appear in this list. The subsequent history of this parish belongs to the history of the Town of GLASTONBURY.

NEWINGTON PARISH.—The initiative measures for a separate parish for the west side of the township, were begun in 1708; about twenty-five years after the first settler had taken up his abode in that section. The settlers there were, as a rule, sons or grandsons of inhabitants of Wethersfield village, holding lands that had been set out under the Town's allotments of 1670-1, and 1693-4. For the subsequent history of this parish and its ministers, the reader is referred to Chapter XIX.

STEPNEY (NOW ROCKY HILL).<sup>1</sup>—*The Third Ecclesiastical Parish in Wethersfield*.—Perhaps the first movement toward securing ecclesiastical autonomy at Rocky Hill, was a petition from that section, presented to a town meeting at Wethersfield, December 19, 1720,<sup>2</sup> asking for a grant of 60 acres of land, for church use. The petition was signed by:—Tho. Williams, Sen., Jonathan Curtis, Sam. Collins, Tho. Goodrich, Jonathan Riley, Jacob Riley, Joseph Crowfoot, Gideon Goodrich, Samuel Smith, Abraham Morris, Joseph Butler, Jonathan Smith, John Goodrich, Sam. Belden, John Riley, Stephen Riley, Joseph Riley, Will. Nott, Stephen Williams, Joseph Cole, John Taylor, Richard Butler and Elihu Dickinson; all being "inhabitants of Rocky Hill." The petitioners allege that they are "not yet formed into a distinct Society for y<sup>e</sup> publick worship"; but "it is hopefull that

<sup>1</sup> See latter part of Chap. IV, for Stepney's civil beginnings; also Chap. XVIII.

<sup>2</sup> *Wethersfield Town Votes*, II., p. 11.

we may be so in time, and how soon we know not"; and that they wish "to prepare ourselves for so good a design."

In the following March,<sup>1</sup> the Town granted the prayer of the petitioners, and chose Ens. Joshua Robbins, Lieut. Robert Welles and Jonathan Burnham, to lay out the tract. In the petition it was requested that the land begin "near the Stone Pit, and so running north." In May, 1726, the committee laid it out as follows:—Beginning at Cold Spring, leaving the head of it "2 or 3 rods east of the Parsonage," thence S. 22° W., 12 chains; thence W. 22° N., 20 chains; thence N. 22° E., 30 chains; E. 22° S., 20 chains; and S. 22° W., to Cold Spring. This was the tract of 60 acres. They also laid out a tract of eight acres "for the minister," on the east side of the foregoing, "between the northeast corner and Cold Spring." This "Stone-pit" was on the south side of the road leading from Rocky Hill to Griswoldville; this tract is traversed by a small stream flowing northerly, and on it stands the house now or lately of Wm. Warner. The whole tract was, in 1851, leased to Wm. W. Warner, for the term of 999 years; the rent being \$860.

This was followed, by a petition, December 11, 1721, of certain people at Rocky Hill, to be allowed to have "a suitable person to preach with them from Dec. to April 1 next, 1722," at their own cost.

Rocky Hill was made a parish, by the act of the General Court, in May 10, 1722. Its northern limit was Samuel Dix's (lately Russell Adam's) corner, including the Dix lot, and the homestead of Peter Blin; the latter being its northwest corner. From the west side of Blin's lot the west line extended southerly, along the west ends of the lots of the west side of the main road from Rocky Hill to Middletown, until it reached the third tier of lots north of the Middletown line; the tiers in question ranging east and west. Here was an east-and-west highway. Thence, the line extended westerly, to the end of said third tier; thence, southerly, to the highway between the second and third tiers; thence, westerly, to the end of the second tier; thence southwesterly to the highway between the first and second tiers; thence westerly, to the end of the first tier; thence southerly, to Middletown line; so that the three tiers lying between Beckley's Quarter and the Middletown road were included. The east line was the River, Beaver Brook, and the stream that flows into it, through Fearful Swamp; the north line extending due east from Dix's corner, to the said stream. These boundary lines were in accordance with a

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<sup>1</sup> *Idem.*, March 6, 1720-1.



petition of Joseph Butler, Richard Butler, Jonas Holmes, Joseph Crowfoot, Edward Bulkeley, Sam. Williams, Joseph Belden, Jonathan Curtis, Sam. Collins and Benj. Wright; presented in town meeting, and voted favorably upon, in March, 1722, subject to ratification by the General Court.

At the same May session, Will. Pitkin, Esq., Roger Wolcott, Esq., and Capt. Sam. Mather, by direction of the General Court, fixed the site for the proposed meeting house. In May, 1723, the new parish was christened STEPNEY; probably from the parish of the same name (anciently *Stibenhede*, or *Stebenhythe*), now the borough of the Tower Hamlets, London. It had been proposed to name the parish Lexington; perhaps because Joseph Grimes, one of the most public-spirited men at Rocky Hill, came from Lexington, Mass. For further history see Chapter XVIII.





## CHAPTER IX.

*Connecticut's Educational Legislation—The Schools of Wethersfield—  
The Schools of Stepney Parish (Rocky Hill), and of West Farms  
(Newington)—Private Schools—Yale College in Wethersfield.*

[BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ.]

FOR MANY years the control of schools, and of public instruction generally, was in the Town. The Code of 1650 made it obligatory upon each town, containing fifty householders, to appoint a schoolmaster; and in 1677, a penalty of five pounds was imposed upon any town convicted of neglecting to maintain a school for at least three months in the year. In 1678, it was provided that each town having thirty families should appoint some person to teach reading and writing. In 1690, the school year was made six months in length. This was the same year in which free, classical schools were required to be established; one at Hartford, and the other at New Haven. In 1700, the law provided that all towns having seventy families and upward, should keep a school the year round; those having less than seventy families to keep school half the year. Each town was to be paid, by the Colonial treasurer, for school purposes, a sum equal to forty shillings upon each £1,000 of its grand-list; provided a school had been maintained. Where this sum was insufficient, one-half the deficiency was to be made up by the town, and the other half by the attending children. In 1702, it was provided that the constables collect the school-rate of forty shillings, and pay it directly to the *committee* of the town, or the Selectmen, where there was no committee; thus recognizing, for the first time, the office of committee. In 1711, it was re-enacted that the school rate be paid by the Colonial Treasurer, to the town committee.

In 1712, it was provided that the several *parishes* receive the school moneys, based upon *their* respective grand-lists, for the maintenance of a school in each parish. This was the first step toward the establishment of the modern School Society. In 1714, the "civil authorities," with the selectmen of the respective towns, were made school "visitors."

In 1717, the law provided that each "society or parish," having seventy families and upward, maintain a school for eleven months in each year. If there were less than seventy families, then the school



was to be kept half the year. The *householders* in their respective parishes were to be the legal voters in meetings of the society. A subsequent act, the same year, provided that the "*inhabitants*" (which meant the legal voters) in each parish should have power to lay taxes, choose a clerk, committee, and a collector for the school and minister's rates. At this time but one minister was recognized as *regular*, in each parish.

In 1726, the school rate, so far the colony had any agency in its collection, was abolished. In the same year provision was for the first time made for the organization of an *older* section of a town (after some newer section had been constituted a parish, or society), into a parish by itself, to be called the *First Society*. Before the division of a township into two or more societies, the township itself had been considered as *one* society, or parish. And when a section was taken off, to form a *new* society, it left the older, remaining section, unorganized, as a society, until the passage of the Act of 1726. A healing act was passed, at the same time, to confirm previous doings of any such *First Society*.

In 1728, the school rate of forty shillings was re-enacted. In the same year it was enacted that those only, should vote in society meetings who had a freehold, rated at fifty shillings, in the parish; or forty pounds on the grand-list; or were "in full communion with the Church."

In 1727, "Church of England" worshippers; in 1729, Quakers; in the same year, Baptists; in 1743, Presbyterians, and *dissenting* Congregationalists (in special cases only)—were permitted to organize into ecclesiastical societies (without territorial limits), and support ministers of their own choice; having done which, they would be exempted from the general "minister's rate." In this way, gradually, the control of ecclesiastical matters was passing from the hands of the societies (parishes); excepting as to the *one*, regularly established, Congregational Church.

In 1733, it was provided that the avails of the sales of lands in the western part of the colony, be distributed among the pre-existing towns, in proportion to their tax lists, for school purposes.

In 1742, the setting-up of schools not under "orthodox" supervision, was prohibited. No person not orthodox was allowed the benefit of the laws for the support of ministers; and woe betide the clergyman who should be caught in the act of preaching, if he were a "dissenting," or "separate" preacher—without the permission of the regular minister of the parish. He was liable to fine and imprisonment. A parish might have more than one school within its limits; but *districts* were then unknown. The subdivision of a parish was sometimes called a

“precinct”; but it was still under parish control. A parish was sometimes formed from sections of two, or more, towns.

In 1746, it was enacted that *dissenting* worshipers be not allowed to participate in any town or society vote concerning the settlement or maintenance of the minister of the *established* church; nor the building or maintaining of the meeting house.

In 1753, the school rate was reduced from forty shillings per £1000 to ten shillings. In 1764, the office of society *treasurer* was created.

In 1766, the selectmen were authorized to receive the excise moneys (on liquors, teas, etc.), and pay over the same to the school committees. The school rate was increased from ten shillings per £1000 to twenty shillings. It was raised to forty shillings in 1677

It was at this time, 1766, that the system of school *districts* was inaugurated. Towns and parishes were authorized to divide themselves into such districts. But the management of these districts still remained in the town, or the parish, as the case might be.

In 1777, *all* Separates (a term which then included all who supported any other than the *established* church of the town or parish), should be exempt from taxation for the support of the established church of the place. This was the most liberal measure so far provided.

In 1786, an act was passed which recognized the possibility of two or more parishes having the *same* limits, and providing for an apportionment of moneys raised therein by taxation. It is probable that this anomalous condition existed in very few instances only; since it was very much such a case as would be that of two townships, having exactly the same boundary lines.

In 1791, provision was made for exempting dissenting worshipers from the payment of parish (minister's, and church) taxes, upon filing a sworn certificate that they attended a *Separate* church, of whatever denomination, and aided in its support. At a later session, the same year, a more liberal provision was substituted, abolishing the requirement of a sworn certificate. The one orthodox church, however, still retained its territorial limits, and this was the only parish.

In 1794, the autonomy of school districts was, for the first time, mainly established. They were empowered to lay taxes, build school houses, choose a clerk and collector, the qualifications for voters being the same as those required of voters in society meetings.

In 1797, school districts were authorized to choose a treasurer, and to buy land for school purposes, etc.; but their school committees were still chosen only by the town, or parish.

In 1798, a separation of educational functions from ecclesiastical was effected. Thenceforth the control of school affairs was to be vested in "school societies"; but the old "societies" retained their parochial powers, and still chose the district committees.

In 1799, school societies were given ampler powers, as to forming districts; establishing high schools; appointing committees and visitors for the district schools, etc. Whilst ecclesiastical societies still existed, it was for ecclesiastical purposes merely; the parish was becoming superseded by the school society.

In 1801, ecclesiastical society taxes, of non-resident taxpayers, were allowed to be applied to the support of such religious denominations as the taxpayer was a member of. *The divorce of the school society from the ecclesiastical was now complete.*

In 1817, the act was passed which, practically, placed all Christian denominations on the same level, as regarded the freedom of separation from any one of them, and joining with another; and thereby becoming exempt from further liability for the minister's rate of the denomination or society from which he separated. This was anticipating the effect of the Constitution of the State; soon thereafter to be adopted.

Since the adoption of the Constitution, ecclesiastical societies, as *parishes*, having territorial limits, have become obsolete. School societies were abolished in 1856, and their functions transferred to the towns; but in a few cases, by special act, they have been revived.

*Education—School Districts, etc.*—In the early history of every New England town, the "schoolmaster" was ever an important public functionary. Like the minister, he was appointed in town meeting, or else by a committee chosen in such meeting. The Wethersfield records do not show *when* the first schoolmaster was chosen, nor *who* he was, nor when the first school house was built. The first schoolmaster mentioned is Thomas Lord, in 1658, appointed by the following vote.<sup>1</sup>

[Fortunately, by means of an item from the *Records of the Gen. Court*, 3 Oct., 1650, kindly furnished us by the late State Librarian, Mr. C. J. Hoadley, we are enabled to ante-date this statement, by ten years, 1650/1-1656, and know that Mr. WILLIAM JANES, a distinguished schoolmaster of New Haven, was secured by the Wethersfield people to school their children.—See record in *Janes Geneal.*, Vol. II. H. R. S.]

"A Towne meting at Weathersfeld, this 13th of Aprell, 1658, seasonably worned by the Townesmen. And it was legally uoated and

<sup>1</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I, p. 53.

cast, by the maigor part, that Thomas Lord should be skollmaster at Weathersfeld this yeare.

“Legually uoated and cast, by the maigor part, that those children that are sent to skoll to him this yeare, shall pay aight shillings p. head; and the rest to be raised upon the Towne; to the uallue of twenty-fue pound, and the house and land he had formerly.”

The words, “which he had formerly” in the above vote, would indicate that he had previously served the town in the same capacity.

Mr. Lord, at this time about 40 years of age, was a brother of Richard Lord, at Hartford. He, afterward, became famous as a “bone-setter”; perhaps, the most skillful one in the country.

The next year, the same salary was voted, and the manner of raising the amount, was designated:

“March the 24, ’58-’59.

“It was allsoe voted y<sup>t</sup> Thomas Lord should be schoolemaster for the yeare insueing, and to have £25 for the yeare, and the house lott, and the vse of the medow, as formerly; and the twenty-fue pound is to be raysed of[f] the children, at 8s per head of such as come to schoole, and the remainder by rate of[f] all the inhabitants, made by the list of estate.

“At the same Towne meting, Mr. Tho. Lord, Scolemaster, p’pounded severall p’pessesian [propositions] to the Towne; to wett, namely: £30 p. yeare in sueing, and mending the house and deging a well. All which p’posisions the Towne uoated against, by a full uoat. With use of the land.” [*Ibid.* p. 64].

“At a Towne Meeting, this 15th 3m., 1660 [*Weth. Town Votes*, I. p. 66]

“It was voted and agreed that Mr. Lord should be accepted as schoolmaster for this yeare, p’uided that he will accept of that for his pay that m[ay] be freely contrybuted to him by the Towne.

“At a second vote was granted him the vse of the house, and the land w<sup>h</sup> he formerly had.”

At this time, “School Districts” were unknown, and “School Societies” had not yet been formed. The whole township was the smallest territory within which jurisdiction was exercised for educational purposes. When the town was divided into *parishes*, “School Societies” were gradually formed, whose limits were co-extensive, as a rule, with those of the parishes in which they originated, respectively. In fact,



for a long time, the Parish and the School Societies were one and the same thing, as to organization and officers.<sup>1</sup>

The first *school house* mentioned on Wethersfield records stood on land now owned by the heirs of Dr. Ashbel Robertson, next south of the lot on which the Silas Deane house now stands. When it was erected, we can not say. The land on which it stood had been given by the Town to Wm. Smith, in March, 1647; and when the Town regained possession of it, or in what manner, does not appear of record. In 1660, the school house had become unfit for longer service; and in July of that year the Town voted to purchase land and a new school house. For this purpose, it, in 1663, exchanged the old lot and building for the land of Joseph Wright, lying between land lately of Henry Smith, deceased, N. and Francis Yates and the burying place S.—recognizable to us as the premises now occupied by the heirs of John Williams, Esq., deceased.

Meantime, in November, 1661, at a Town Meeting, a new school-master had been appointed.

“No’b<sup>r</sup> 4th, 1661; a Towne Meting.<sup>2</sup>

“It was ordered at this Towne Metting that, for the yeare insueing, the Towne will pay towards the maintaining of a schollmaster, eight pounds. It was also ordered at this Metting that the schollmaster shall haue, for the year in sueing, twenty-five pounds.

“It was also ordered at this meting that all the malles in the Towne, betwne five yeares old and tenn, shall make that eight pounds the Towne giues twenty-five pounds, paying alike, by the head, whether they goe to scholle or nott.

“It is also ordered at this meting that Mr. Elleazar Kimberly shall be the schollmaster for the yeare in sueing.”

This Mr. ELEAZUR KIMBERLY, who was appointed, was later known in Colonial history as Secretary of the Connecticut Colony, and, from his education and ability, must have proved an excellent schoolmaster.

It had been intended, when the new school house was built that a parsonage should also be established; but, in fact neither were built. In 1665, the Town authorized a Writing-School to be kept; and in the same year, December the 8th, 1665.<sup>3</sup>

“At a Towne Meeting at Weathersfeild, it was voated and agreed that Josiah Willard should teach scoole for this ensuing yeare; and

<sup>1</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I, p. 58.

<sup>2</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I, p. 72.

<sup>3</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I, p. 87.

that for his encouragement therein the Towne do engage to allow him six pounds, besides what will come in; in particular, by the scolars. And he to begin the work the 18th of this instant."

In 1667, it was voted to sell the "Town house" (the old Joseph Wright dwelling-house) and lot, and exchange them for a parsonage. In the meantime, the pupils probably had their sessions at the school-master's house.

Mr. WILLARD was a somewhat distinguished man in the little community—the ancestor of the Wethersfield Willards—and he resided on the S. and W. side of Broad Street.

"March 22th, 1666-7.<sup>1</sup>

"At this Towne Meeting John Coltman [Coulتمان] was chosen to be a Schoolmaster; and the Towne agreed to give y<sup>e</sup> said John Coltman six pounds by the year, besides what comes in by the severall children that are taught; and *also to provide a house for the said John Coltman to teach school in.* And John Coltman accepted of the place, upon the above said conditions, and agreed to begin the worke about the beginning of May next."

Coltman lived on the east side of Broad St., next south of Abraham Finch's.

"December 21st, 1668.<sup>2</sup>

"At this Towne Meting it was voated and agreed with Sam<sup>ll</sup> Butler to keep Schole for the futer, to teach childeren to read and write; at [and?] the Towne to pay unto the said Sam<sup>ll</sup> tenn shillings p<sup>r</sup> month, by way of rate, over and above what he can geet of the parrance of the children hee techeth."

"December the 2d, 1672.<sup>3</sup>

"Itt was voted that the Schoole master, Sam<sup>ll</sup> Butler, shall have nine poundes for his keepeing Schoole untill the last of March next ensuing."

Mr. BUTLER was the son of Richard Butler, of Hartford, and he had to teach in a "hired" building—none having yet been built to take the place of the one sold in 1663.

"March 9th, 1675-6.<sup>4</sup>

"At the seam Town meeting it was voted, that the Townes men should hier a Scoulhouse for this winter."

In the meantime, the schoolmaster's salary had been reduced from £25 to £8 and £10 per annum; and it is probable that the balance of

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 100.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 105.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 133.

<sup>4</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I, p. 147.

the compensation which he must have received, was made up by an assessment upon the scholars. This seems evident from the tenor of the following vote:

“December 13, 1677.<sup>1</sup>

“At a Towne meeting this day, it is voted, that for the yeare ensuing, M<sup>r</sup> Kimberly shall have 32<sup>nd</sup> [pounds?] for keeping Scool; 15<sup>nd</sup> by the Town, & 17<sup>nd</sup> by y<sup>e</sup> scollers; it being three quarters of a yeare that he is to keep y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> scool; the mony to be raised as formerly.

“It is allsoe granted that there be a scool house built this yeare following; and M<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Robbins, Joseph Edwards & Benia. Churchall, Serg<sup>t</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Wright & Lt. Tho. Hollister, be a committe to order the building of the s<sup>d</sup> house, as to the dimentions thereof; and all other things about the carrying on & finishing the s<sup>d</sup> scool house.”

Evidently, the return of Mr. Kimberly to the educational charge of their children had stimulated the good people of Wethersfield to furnish him with better school house accommodations than a “hired” house could do. The records don’t intimate the *location* of this new school house, but it is presumed to have been upon, or very near to, the site of the present Chapel of the Congregational Church.

That Mr. Kimberly remained in charge for some years, is evident from the following Towns Votes of 1680 and 1689, in the first of which he is mentioned as the teacher, while in the second is intimated the appointment of a new teacher. It is probable that Mr. Kimberly was schoolmaster for about 25 years, and until about the time of his removal across the river. In the last year of his service, £20 was added to his salary.

“Decemb. 27, 1680.<sup>2</sup>

“It was also voated, at the same meeting, that M<sup>r</sup> Eleazar Kemberly shal have tenne pounds a year aded unto his maintainan[ce;] fue by the Towne, and fue by the scollars; and the s<sup>d</sup> Schoolmaster shal kepe scoole al the year.

“December 25, 1699.<sup>3</sup>

“At the same meeting it was voted and agreed that the Towne doe alow for the incurragment of a Schoolmaster tenn pounds to bee paid by the Towne, *Rockehill* excepted, and tenn pounds to bee paid by the boyes between six years old and twelve; and if any other boyes

<sup>1</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I, p. 152.

<sup>2</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I, p. 174.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 258.

doe goe that are above twelve yeares old, they shall pay theire proper-tion, according as they can agree with the Schoolmaster.

"At the same meeting THOMAS FITCH was chosen Schoolmaster for the yeare inseeuing.

"Att a town meeting held in Wethersfield, on the 16th day of Aprill, Annoque Do., 1700.<sup>1</sup>

"There being necessity for to expend some charge in repairing the meetting house & scool house, at this meetting Mr John Goodrich, Serg<sup>t</sup> William Goodrich & Benja. Gilbert, with the advice of the select men, are chosen a comitte to repair such things, in the meetting house or scool house, w<sup>ch</sup> are needfull for y<sup>e</sup> secureing the same from the injury of the weather, and other necessaries which are in present want..

"Their proportion of country mony due to the scool; that is to say, their proportion for the time they have kept a scool the year past, which is five months, as is computed.

"Town Meeting, March 15th, 1708-9.<sup>2</sup>

"At this metting the Farmers have Liberty to erect a Hovell, or *Shed*, to tye their horses under; provided it be done with timber, and in such place near the scool house, viz.: in some convenient place where the select men appoint."

*Schools and Districts of Old or First Parish of Wethersfield.*—At a Town Meeting in Wethersfield, March 2d, 1723-4, it was voted that the "northern inhabitants of the First Society in said Town" might erect a small school house, "somewhere near the northwest end of Standishes Lane, so as not to prejudice the highway thereby." Thus it is seen that the Town, even in the First, or Old Society, directed in the matter of the schools. As School Districts were unknown, the new school house should be considered as a *branch* of the school house of the First Society or Parish, whose first meeting, we may add, was held December 19th, 1722. We are not informed whether this vote was carried out. Perhaps the contrary should be inferred; since, at a meeting of the First Society, December 21st, 1724, and again November 14, 1726, it was voted to "repair y<sup>e</sup> School House;" no mention being made of more than one.

These last votes indicate that in 1724, the Town had relinquished its jurisdiction over the matter of Schools in the First Society, in favor of that Society. It had already relinquished its active control, if not its jurisdiction, over Schools at Rocky Hill, in 1712, before the for-

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 260.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 280.



mation of Stepney Parish, 1722; and there is no evidence that the Town exercised jurisdiction over Schools in Newington Parish after the latter was constituted such, in 1712; prior to which, and indeed until ten or twelve years later, probably—there was no school house in Newington.

On the 17th December, 1733, the First Society voted a new school house in s<sup>d</sup> Society, be built, “in or near the same place where the Old School House now stands;” to be “four foot wider & four foot longer” than the old one. This, we suppose, to have been on, or very near to the present site of the Congregational Chapel.

In December, 1738, the Society voted to “plaster the School house overhead,” and to lay the “upper great floor” of the meeting house at the same time. There are indications that the school house in question was the *upper room of the meeting house*; but of this we are not certain. A similar vote had passed, in Society Meeting, December 21st, 1724.

At a Town Meeting, held March 5th, 1743, it was voted that “the inhabitants of the First Society living southward of the brook called Waddams’s Brook shall have liberty to set a School House, for their children, on the Green near Nathaniel Deming’s.” The brook in question was at first known as Beaver Brook; perhaps it is best known to-day as Tando’s. The Green in question was in the triangular plot formed by the highways intersecting each other at “Egypt.” It does not appear that the school house was then built.

It should be premised that as early as February 12, 1739-40, the First Society had voted to divide the “School,” and had chosen Sam. Steele, Elizur Goodrich and John Chester, “to view and consider where it may be most convenient to draw a line for said division.” This was the first step taken toward forming what would now be called a school *district*. December 29th, 1746, the Committee was re-appointed for the same purpose, with power to build one or two school houses; according as they should find the old one fit or unfit to be repaired and removed. Permission was also given to those living on the west side of the brook [Wadham’s] to send their children there, to be taught at the expense of the inhabitants on that side. Whether the school house there was one which had been built for that purpose, or was hired, does not appear; probably the latter was the case. On June 1st, 1747, the Society laid a tax to defray the charges “that have arisen and may arise,” in building two school houses. On the 7th of September, the same year the Society voted that “the youth in said Society shall be instructed in *one* school, *as usual*, until the next meet-

ing." December 28th, 1747, the Society voted that the taxes should be equally divided between the *two* schools therein. On the 19th December, of the year following, the Society chose *two* Committees, one for the "South" school and the other for the "North" one. It should be explained here that in December, 1746, the Society had voted that the dividing line between the two "Schools," should be coincident with "the line formerly drawn by Maj. Bull for dividing the military Company in this Town into Bands or Companies." This line making two districts for military purposes had been fixed, by order of the General Court, by Maj. Jonathan Bull, in 1697; and the First train band had been allotted to the section south of the line, and the second one to that on the north of the same. This old line was nearly the same as that now separating the Broad Street district from the High Street. As will be readily seen, it varied materially from the Wadham's Brook boundary line, established in 1743-4, which it took the place of, in 1746.

From all this mass of apparently, conflicting votes, it may be gathered that the Town authorized the construction of a second school house in the *First Society* (in the north part) as early as 1734, but the additional structure was not then built; that in 1744, the Town authorized the same Society to have *another* school house south (and west) of Wadham's (now Tando's) Brook; but that, if a school was kept there prior to 1747, it was in a building hired for the purpose: that the school house was authorized by the First Society to be built west of the Brook, in 1746, had reference to the same section designated as that south of Wadham's Brook, in 1744; that in 1747-8, *two* school houses co-existed in the First Society, for the first time; the one in the first, or South Military District of 1697; the other in the Second, or North Military District. The *sites*, however, of these two contemporaneous institutions are not stated in the records. We think, however, that they were the same, or nearly so, as at present occupied by the Broad Street and North Brick school houses.

The Town continued to be watchful to some extent over the wants of the several schools. The three parishes or School Societies, as they afterwards became—chose their own ministers and "schoolmasters," and their clerks, collectors and "prudential" committees respectively; but the Town chose the tythingmen, designating the respective Societies in which they were to act. And it furnished the fuel, for many years, for all the schools; giving eight loads to each of the two schools in the First Society, and the same amount for one school each in Newington and Stepney Societies; in each case the word "school" included a principal school with its branches, as one.

At a Town Meeting in Wethersfield, December 20th, 1748, Dan. Beckley, Dan. Beckley, Jr., Benj. Beckley, Elias Crofoot, Joseph Beckley, Dan. Andrus, Jacob Deming, Elih. Dickinson, Nathaniel Dickinson, Abraham Harriss, Charles Kelsey, Enoch Kelsey, Joel Mitchell, Charles Nott and James Steele, all inhabitants of Wethersfield, but living in Kensington parish, petitioned for leave to have a school "parish" as they called it among themselves. The Town granted the request, subject to approval by the General Assembly, which approval was not at this time solicited. This was the beginning of the movement for a school house in Beckley's Quarter. At the October session, 1757, upon the memorial of Joseph Beckley, Joseph Deming, Ezekiel Kelsey and others, the legislature granted that part of Kensington Parish lying in Wethersfield "liberty to keep a distinct school by themselves;" and the limits of the district were as follows: a line drawn east from the northeast corner of Beckley's Farm  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile, and a line drawn S. from the east and said line to the dividing line between Wethersfield and Middletown. This was in reality the *first district* created, *for school purposes* only, in the limits of Wethersfield. In 1765, April 1st, Wethersfield First Society kindly voted to this district outside its limits, £31 11s. accruing from interest on a bond held by the Society; the bond being on account of the sale of Norfolk Township by the State. This district, since 1785 and 1843, has been included within the Townships of Berlin and Rocky Hill, respectively; partly in each.

On the 31st of December, 1759, the Town authorized John Chester, Elisha Williams, Ezekiel Williams, Tho. Belden, Jr., Joseph Webb, and Sam. Rose, "to build a school house in some place in the Broad Street," where the selectmen should fix the site for the same. Neither the Society nor the Town Records show that any further action was taken under this vote.

During the period beginning with 1747, and ending with 1772, the Collectors and other officers for the "North" and "South" Schools, were chosen and taxes laid by the First *Society*, and *not* by the north and south sections respectively. The two schools were in fact branches of one and the same institution, to-wit: The Society school. It was the practice to raise one half the amount required for each school, by a *Society* tax; and to direct that the other half be raised by a rate laid on the polls of the children attending the schools respectively, each section receiving the avails of the taxes collected upon the polls in its own limits.

In 1766, the Towns and Societies were by statute authorized to

divide themselves into districts for school purposes. Wethersfield was not in a hurry to adopt this privilege. Its Societies were more interested than the township and besides there was no part of the township not included in one of the section. In February, 1768, private individuals presented a memorial to the First Society reciting that they had built a school house more easily accessible to them than either of the two "stated" one; that they had employed a competent teacher, and desired to be relieved from payment of taxes to the stated schools. The memorialists were—John Welles, Jacob Dix, Ozias Griswold, Zeph. Hatch, Alex. Rhodes, Wm. Rhodes, Leonard Boardman, Joseph Smith, Wm. Kilby, James Curtis, Josiah Francis, Charles Francis, Josiah Curtis, Elisha Stedman, Justus Stedman, Tim Hurlbut, Thos. Dickinson, Eben Dickinson, Moses Dix, John Crane, Joseph Forbes, Oliver Deming, Lemuel Deming, Joseph Richards, Samuel Wolcott, Joseph Welles, Elisha Wolcott, Josiah Robbins, Joshua Welles, David Mitchell, Solomon Wolcott, John Russell, John Smith, Thos. Hurlburt, Thos. Welles, Jr., Josiah Belding; and they were among the most substantial citizens of the township. We suppose the school house they had built to have been of wood on Windmill Hill (now West, or Wolcott Hill) and on or near the site occupied by the old brick school house demolished then, at the cross roads, a few years ago.

Upon the foregoing petition, the Society chose John Chester, Josiah Griswold, Elisha Williams, Silas Deane and Sam. Butler a committee to "take into consideration the State or circumstances" of *all* the schools in the Society. At the Society meeting of February 27th, 1769, they reported: "That the division amicably and unanimously by the Society in 1746, by the line made by Maj. Bull (for the division of the First and Second Military Companies, in 1697) could not be made better, as we find the number of boys in each Company [limit] at this day nearly equal. That the two school houses built in 1746, *where they now are*, were erected with the greatest agreement and harmony that ever an affair so interesting was ever carried on, & perfected by so great a number of men, and in so different situations; therefore ought to be repaired or new built, in, or very near said places; & the removing either of them nearer to the meeting house will not lessen, but increase the travel of the youth that go to said houses."

The committee further say that "the school house built by Mr. Josiah Robbins and others has been the occasion of debates in several Society meetings; is inconveniently situated; but few children can attend it better than at one of the other schools, etc. They recommend, however, that "the more distant inhabitants have liberty to keep a school



in the months of December, January, February and March, and to receive their proportion of public moneys accordingly.

This report shows that the two school houses built in 1747, were still in existence in 1769, and were the *only* ones then belonging to the public; whilst one and probably only one, built by private parties, had just been set up in what is now the Fourth, or West Hill district. But nothing of record thus far shows where the two public school houses stood. The most that we learn is that one was about as far south of the meeting house as the other one was north of it. The meeting voted to build two new school houses "near the places where they now stand;" and chose a separate committee on building for each structure. For reasons which will appear hereafter it would seem that one, if not both, the old school houses continued in use until 1772.

At a Society meeting, held December 17, 1770, it was voted to pay £3. 7s., 6d., "to the schoolmaster that kept the school on the hill in Collyer road the year past." This is the *first* indication afforded by the records of a school on what is now South, Christian, or Harriss Hill, as it is variously called. We suppose the school must have been in an apartment hired for the purpose. In the same meeting the sum of £4 3s. 7d., was voted to the school master that kept the school on Wind-mill hill the year past."

At this time there was much controversy over the relative merits of the sites of and condition of the school houses. On December 16th, 1771, a committee consisting of Ezekiel Williams, Thos. Belding, Hezekiah Welles, Josiah Robbins and Joshua Robbins, was chosen "to take into consideration the state of the schools, and prepare something to be laid before the next Society meeting in order to accommodate the differences now subsisting relative thereto." This committee reported to a Society meeting, December 30th, 1771, that it was unable to agree upon any plan of reconciliation concerning "the unhappy circumstances of the schools in said Society, which has occasioned contentions, divisions, etc.," and recommend the reference of the matter to a committee of "three judicious and disinterested men in the neighboring town or towns" for a settlement. The meeting voted in compliance with the committee's suggestion.

*School Districts.*—In February, 1772, Hezekiah May, Ezekiel Porter, Silas Deane and others, petitioned the Legislature to divide the First Society into *three* school districts. That body was favorable, and the division was ordered, as follows:—The inhabitants within the limits of the First Company or train-band, together with Nathaniel and Peter Burnham, Sam. Rose and Simon Willard, to the the First

School district, "excepting Gershom Nott, Ezekiel Fosdick, Silas Deane, Edmond Dorr, Justus Riley, Joseph Farnsworth, John Wright and Joseph Marvin, their dwelling houses." All living west of the street leading from the Cove to Ed. Dorr's house and Justus Riley's, in the limits of the Second Military company, or train-band, to be the Second School district. All "from the Cove, in the street called High," and south as far as the houses of Dorr and Riley, inclusive, and Capt. Gershom Nott east to be the Third School district.

The petition in this case alleges that the First Society has 400 children, and but two stated school houses; that the district has refused to build a third one, which the petitioners have accordingly built, by *voluntary subscriptions*, and opened school in it in October, 1770. The petitioners further say that they all live on one street [Main], and that 100 children live on that street. This school house built by private individuals, was probably the wooden structure, in High Street, which preceded the present one of brick.

It appears that two new *brick* school houses were already built, or begun upon by the First Society, before the formation of these three districts, viz.: The one in Broad Street, standing until 1866; and the "North Brick" school house, still in use as such. These were the first brick school houses built in Wethersfield. Also that two other school houses, "for the more remote inhabitants," one on South Hill, of wood, the other in High Street, also of wood, were built, or in course of construction under the auspices of the First Society.

The three districts created in 1772 went on to complete the school houses already *begun by the Society*. The *First* (or Broad St.) *district* voted, June 19th, 1772, to finish the lower room in its brick building, in the center of Broad Street (opposite to the then residence of Col. John Chester); and also to build a new branch school house "on the hill, near Rich. Montague's dwelling house, where the timber for said school house now lies"; Joshua Robbins and Gershom Blinn being the building committee on the latter structure. This school house "on the hill," was the red building now, and since 185—, standing on the premises of John Prann, whither it was removed, to be used as a wagon shop. It is more than 40 years older than the South School district. It was replaced by a brick structure, in the lot, a few rods northeasterly of the old one, in 185—

In April, 1773, Broad Street district voted to finish off the "chamber" to its house in that street, and the stairs up to the same. It does not appear that the upper room was needed or used for school purposes.

The old school house was burned down in 1866 (?), and the present one erected, on land of Comstock, Ferre & Co., in 1867.

*North Brick.*—In the *Second* (or *North*) District, a meeting was held June 24th, 1772, wherein a tax was laid on the list of 1771 to defray the charges of building the brick schoolhouse. This was the same structure used by the same district to-day, at the junction of Nott's Lane, Hartford Avenue, Prison Street and Sandy Lane; but it has in recent years undergone some modification and enlargement. There has never been a branch to this school. In 1822, by vote of First School Society, Simeon and Matthew Francis were taken from the Fourth, or West Hill, district, and set to this Second district.

*High Street.*—In the Third or High School District, the records show that the first *district* meeting was held June 9th, 1772. June 22d, 1772, a committee was chosen "to examine the acc'ts. for building the school-house," which we have assumed, was built by private individuals, in 1770. In July, 1772, the district voted to have "an additional, or woman's school," for the three summer months. April 9th, 1784, the district voted to lease the upper room to the "Union Library Society"; and the library of this Society was kept there for many years. A well and pump were ordered built the same year. This wooden building, later known as the "white" schoolhouse, from its color—was removed from the highway on to the land occupied by the present brick schoolhouse in 1811; the land being that of the heirs of Otis Stillman. There it remained until 1863 (?), when it was removed to the south end of the Town, where it is now occupied as a dwelling house by Mrs. Doyle. The brick building which succeeded it was built in 1862.

*Fourth, or West Hill District.*—In 1780, at the October session, Sam. Wolcott, Josiah Robbins, Timothy Russell and others, living in the western part of the First and Second districts, petitioned the Legislature to be set off as a district by themselves. They say that they have "upwards of 40 children." Their request resulted in a resolve establishing the *Fourth*, or West Hill district, whose boundaries were defined as that part "west of the brook near the house of Elijah Hurlburt, exclusive of Dickinson's Street, so called; bounded S. by Collier road; W. by the dividing line between Newington and First Societies; and to extend N. to the house of Josiah Francis, including it and the house of the heirs of Dr. John Wells deceased." \* In October, 1810, upon the petition of this district, the Legislature enacted that "the inhabitants who now live, or may hereafter live, upon the two streets on the western borders of said district, be and are hereby annexed to said Fourth School District."

A new schoolhouse, of brick, was, in 1795, built for this Fourth, or West Hill School District. It was set up in the cross-roads on Wolcott Hill, and we suppose its site was near the same occupied by the old wooden structure of 1768. This second structure stood until 1870, when it was demolished; a new one having been built in 1869, on land of Chauncey, a few rods northwest of the old one.

*South District.*—In a meeting of the First School Society, held Sept. 16th, 1811, application was made, by a committee of Broad Street School District, consisting of Abner Mosely, Sam. W. Williams, and Joseph Webb—to divide said district, in the event of the South Schoolhouse not being removed to a more convenient place. The Society complied, and chose Moses Tryon, Winthrop Buck and Levi Churchill, a committee to establish the line of separation. This action of the Society was confirmed by the Legislature, in May, 1815, and the line between the two districts thus created was fixed as follows:—Beginning at the dwelling house late of Aaron Warner dec'd, which was included in the South part; thence across the lower end of Broad St. to the house late of Levi Boardman, dec'd, which was included in the North part; thence westerly by the north side of the house late of Tho. Coleman dec'd, to the intersection of the [east] line of the Fourth district, including the Coleman house in the south part. The section north of this line was named the "Broad Street School District." The South district continued to use the old wood schoolhouse heretofore referred to, until the erection of the present brick building, in 185—

In October, 1822, Elisha Robbins, William Adams and John Warner, Jr., applied to the First School Society for a committee to select a site for an additional schoolhouse, for the South district. The Society chose Leonard Wells, Richard Robbins and Robert Robbins a committee to select such a site and report to the next meeting.

In 1858, the Legislature authorized the establishment of the Town line between Rocky Hill and Wethersfield as the boundary line between the North School district of Rocky Hill and the South School district of Wethersfield. Return of the County Commissioners, who were directed to find the line, was made to the Secretary of State.

*Griswoldville.*—The First School Society, at a meeting held May 8th, 1835, upon a favorable report from Stephen Willard, Elias Francis and Sam. Galpin, voted to *divide* the Fourth, or West Hill District, and chose Elias Francis, Levi Hatch and Sam. Galpin a committee to establish the line of division. This committee, at the same meeting, reported in favor of division, and a line of separation as follows:—Beginning 60 rods north of the corner on the Collier's road, between



Levi Churchill's and Levi Hatch's, on the N. line of the Churchill lot; thence running W. on the general range of said line to the New Haven turnpike road; thence S. to the South line of the First School Society; thence E. on the line of said Society, to the line of the Fifth, or South School district; thence N., on the W. line of said South School district to said Collier road or place of beginning. Also that the new district be called the *Sixth*, or *Southwest* School district. This report was adopted, and the new district existed thereafter, without confirmatory action by the Legislature.

In 1850, the Legislature authorized an alteration of the South line of this district, so as to have it begin at Twenty-Rod highway, where the town lines of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill intersect each other; thence north as far as said line coincides with said highway; thence east along the town line to the old Hartford and Berlin road. This line operated to bring a part of Rocky Hill township, in its Western School district, within Wethersfield township, in its Griswoldville district, for school purposes only.

Griswoldville built its first schoolhouse, of wood, in 1837; it stood on land now belonging to the heirs of Stephen Morgan. It was removed and converted into a dwelling house (now on the Williams lot, near the house lately of Harris Griswold), in 1853. The present brick schoolhouse was built in 1852, on land of Thomas Griswold. Before the schoolhouse was built, a school was kept for a few years in the Broadbent House, originally built by Major Josiah Griswold.

ROCKY HILL SCHOOLS.—The next new school house within the township of Wethersfield was at Stepney parish, now Rocky Hill. At a town meeting in 1694, it was voted that if the inhabitants south of the lane by Sam. Dix's house (at the corner next S. of South Wethersfield R. R. station of to-day) should procure a teacher for themselves, they should be exempt from paying school rates in Wethersfield. And that they did so, seems to be indicated by the exemption granted them in the resolution of Dec. 25, 1699, already quoted (*The Schools and Districts of Stepney Parish*). In 1701, also, the Rocky Hill people were allowed an abatement of two-thirds of their school rates, because they had supplied their own schoolmaster during the year then last past. In 1702, it is stated, incidentally, that school had been kept at Rocky Hill during five months of the year past—and probably at some "hired" place.

"At a meeting of y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> south part of Weathersfield, December 18, 1712; that is to say—begining at Sam<sup>l</sup> Dix his corner, northward, & extending to Joseph Butler's southward. At w<sup>ch</sup> meet-

ing there was proposals in order to the erecting a school for y<sup>e</sup> instructing y<sup>e</sup> children belonging to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> place.

“It was at the same meeting voted & agreed that y<sup>e</sup> school house shall stand in y<sup>e</sup> middle way between Sam<sup>l</sup> Dix his corner, on y<sup>e</sup> north bounds, and Joseph Butler’s on y<sup>e</sup> south bounds.

“It was also voted & agreed at this meeting, that Mr. Joshua Robbins y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>, on y<sup>e</sup> north bounds of this society, & Sam<sup>l</sup> Smith, in y<sup>e</sup> middle, or center, & Sam<sup>l</sup> Collins, on y<sup>e</sup> south bounds, shall, by measuring, decide where the school house shall stand; that y<sup>e</sup> school may be kept middle way between y<sup>e</sup> two extremes.

“It was also at this meeting voted & agreed, y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> school house shall be twenty foot long & sixteen foot wide, and six foot & an half between joynts. And Serg<sup>t</sup> Jonth<sup>n</sup> Smith, Benjamin Deming & John Right are chosen a comittee to carry on y<sup>e</sup> work in building y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> house. And y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Jonathan Smith, Benjamin Deming & John Right, are by this note impowered to make a rate to asses y<sup>e</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> inhabitants, for y<sup>e</sup> defraying y<sup>e</sup> charge of y<sup>e</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> school house. It is also noted at this meeting that y<sup>e</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> Jonathan Smith, John Right & Benjamin shall be a comittee to provide a school master to eddicate y<sup>e</sup> children belonging to y<sup>e</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> society.”<sup>1</sup>

The Town’s consent to these proposals from the Rocky Hill people was given in the following vote of December 24, 1712.

“At a Town meeting, the inhabitants of Rocky Hill; y<sup>t</sup> is—y<sup>e</sup> South part of the inhabitants of Weathersfield, laying before this Town their conclusions to set up a school for the educating of their children amongst y<sup>m</sup>; and did also pray y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Town would allow y<sup>m</sup> their part of y<sup>e</sup> cuntry mony this last year past, to help them in building their school house.

“At this meeting y<sup>e</sup> Town did, by vote, approve of the afores<sup>d</sup> conclusions of y<sup>e</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> South inhabitants; and did also, by vote, agree y<sup>t</sup> they should have their proportion of y<sup>e</sup> cuntry mony, y<sup>t</sup> is appointed for y<sup>e</sup> maintenance of schools; y<sup>t</sup> is to say: for this year last past. Provided—they build their school house this winter.”<sup>2</sup>

This, it may be premised, was before any steps had been taken to establish a parish, or church, at Rocky Hill. The location of this new school building is supposed to have been in the street, nearly opposite the site of the present North Schoolhouse.

In 1720, the Town began the practice of choosing a School Committee

<sup>1</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I, p. 299.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, I, p. 300.

annually; the whole Township being, practically one School district, containing two School houses; one in Wethersfield village, the other at Rocky Hill.

But long before 1718, the little building at Rocky Hill had become insufficient to accommodate the pupils. It was accordingly voted, in Town Meeting, in December of that year, that Lt. Tho. Welles and Serg. Wm. Warner should treat with Wm. Nott about exchanging his land "by the School House," for three acres of town land; the object, apparently, being to obtain Mr. Nott's land as a site for a new building for school purposes. On the 6th of March, 1720-21, the Town of Wethersfield granted liberty to the "inhabitants of the lower, or South end of the Town," to build a school house where they might agree, and at their own expense.

Thence arose a somewhat famous controversy. The "South end inhabitants" could not agree, and there was no statute providing for proceedings of condemnation, as at present. The matter went into the General Assembly. In fact, the case was before that body in the May session of 1718; a petition, a remonstrance, and a petition in aid, all being then introduced and referred to Capt. John Hamlin, Maj. Joseph Talcott and Mr. Jeremiah Wetmore, as a committee to hear and report upon the case. The remonstrants were composed in part of non-resident taxpayers in Rocky Hill.

We can not give the names of the original petitioners; but the signers of the petition in aid were: Joseph Butler, Richard Butler, Joseph Crowfoot, Capt. [Ephraim] Goodrich, Sam. Collins, John Wood, Thomas Tryon, Jacob Williams, Thomas Goodrich, John Goodrich, Gideon Goodrich, Tho. Williams, Sam. Williams, John Taylor, Wm. Rowell, Joseph Cole and Widow [Sam.] Cole. Rich. Butler and Wm. Nott, both of Rocky Hill, were chosen to appear in behalf of the petitioners.

The remonstrants were: Peter Blin, Jonathan Deming, Jacob Goffe, William Warner, Joshua Robbins, Joseph Grimes, Theophilus Sherman, Phil. Goffe, Rich. Robbins, Henry Grimes, Gideon Belden, John Riley, Jonathan Boardman, Wm. Blin, Tho. Deming, John Goodrich, Jr., Sam. Belden, Sen., Aaron Goffe, and Henry Edwards.

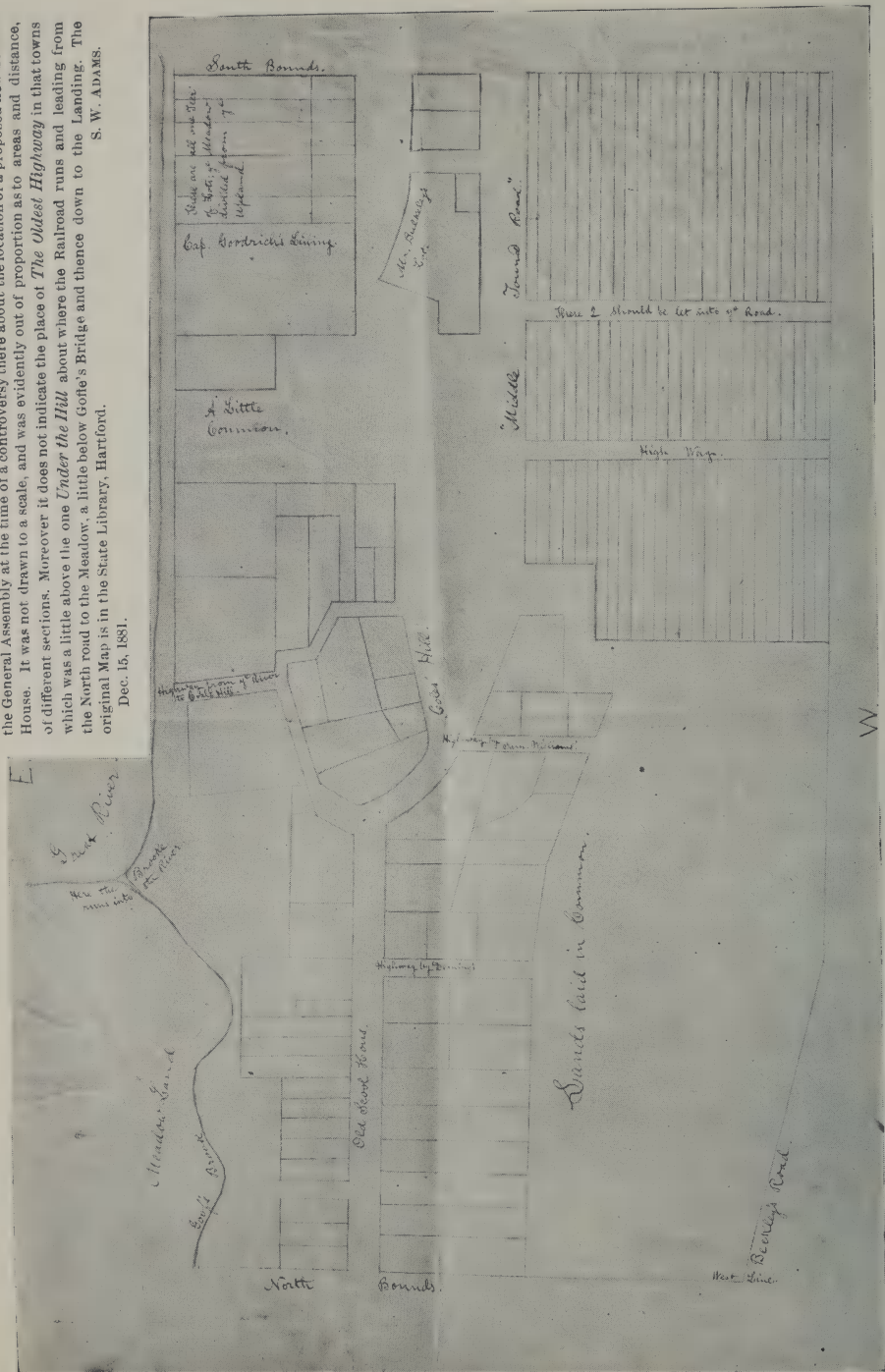
The Committee at first reported, August 11th, 1718, in favor of a school house at the "S. end of the lane that goes by Jonathan Deming's, near Crane's corner;" and that the bounds of the "precinct" should be "from Dix' corner north, to Middletown bounds south; from said (Dix's) corner E., to the brook known as Wadham's [Beaver or Tando's] Brook & so to that brook till it empties itself into Goffe's Brook,





Dec. 15, 1881.

S. W. ADAMS,



& then E., as Goffe's Brook runs, to the Great River; & so on the River S. to Middletown bounds; or W. from Dix's corner to New Haven road" as it goes to Middletown bounds.

On the 17th Oct., the same year, the Committee being sent out again, another report was returned by them, in which it is recommended that two school houses be built; one on the hill by Grime's; the other on the hill by Widow [Sam.] Cole's. A rude plan of the settlement at Rocky Hill (now on file in the archives in the State Library) was drawn to illustrate the need of such an arrangement. It is probable that Peter Pratt, who was active in behalf of the petitioners, made this map. He also showed that the taxable estate for Rocky Hill at that time amounted to £2,325, and that there were 77 children in that section "capable to go to school;" a number evidently too large to be accommodated in the old school house. The plan in question, drawn in 1718, places the "old school house" far north of the center, in the road opposite to the site of the present north school houses

The General Assembly, at its May session, 1720, provided that the "precinct" in the S. part of Wethersfield should be allowed to collect a school tax of 40 shillings per £100 of listed estate, for maintaining a school there. Nothing is said which indicates that more than one school existed there, but the usage was to speak of several *branch* schools, in the same parish, as *one* school. If this fact is borne in mind it will prevent some confusion in the construction to be placed upon the records. But it is quite probable that though but one school house was *built* at this time, the old one, at the north end was *retained* to serve as well as it might under the circumstances.

In 1843, there was a general reestablishment of *all* the lines of each school district in the Society by the School Society's committee, which appears in full in the Society Records.

*Rocky Hill.* — From the STEPNEY PARISH records, it appears (from extracts therefrom kindly furnished me by Dr. Rufus W. Griswold), that the parish, as early as 1726 (which is the earliest date from which its records are extant), took charge of the schools at Rocky Hill. The parish committee chosen that year consisted of Lieut. Rich. Robbins, Abr. Morris and Samuel Belding [Belden] Jr. On February 5th, 1728-9, the parish voted to remove the schoolhouse from Cole's Hill [by the Burying Ground] "to the most convenient place between Sam. Williams southwest corner of his pasture, and y<sup>e</sup> south end of the meeting house." The schoolhouse is supposed to have stood in the road, near the west side of the cemetery; and the meeting house, near to which it

was removed, stood in the road, in front of the site now, 1882, occupied by the barn of Wait Warner, just north of his house.

On the 20th of February, 1728-9, it was further voted to build a schoolhouse, size 24x16 feet, at the northeast corner of William Nott's lot, abutting on the Wethersfield and Middletown road. This we suppose to be the northernmost of the two schoolhouses authorized by the Legislature, in 1718. It is probable that Jonathan Boardman, who lived opposite, was the schoolmaster.

May 31st, 1731, the parish again passed the vote to finish the schoolhouse; and also to remove the one on Cole's Hill, "standing by Joseph Belding's," to the same place indicated by the former vote. The Legislature was to be asked to confirm this action. In the meantime school was to be kept in the meeting house. On December 4th, 1732, the parish instructed its committee to complete the schoolhouse, voted in 1728. A parish meeting was held in this building in 1733. In December, 1735, it was voted that—"our western farmers [now West Rocky Hill] shall have y<sup>e</sup> school kept some part of y<sup>e</sup> time out with them." This, Dr. Griswold thinks, was the beginning of school teaching in the western section of Rocky Hill.

In March, 1744, there still being but one district in Stepney parish—the parish voted that the schoolhouse (which one is not indicated, but it must have been the southernmost), be removed to the west end of Sam. Goff's lane, or that a new one be built, to accommodate the "western farmers." This vote was rescinded in 1749. It was at the same time voted to have a school kept, during the three winter months, in that section.

There are indications that whilst, since 1735, there had been three schools maintained in the parish, but one of them, in 1745, was kept in a building constructed for the purpose; and the inference must be that the other two were kept in hired apartments, which had superseded the schoolhouses. In 1745 a vote passed to shingle "the schoolhouse," without designating where it was. So, in 1751, whilst it was voted to have schools kept for the winter months in the south, north and west parts, it was voted that "at the schoolhouse" there should be teaching during September, October and November, also. In 1752, the branch schools were given territorial limits; the west section to begin at Churchill's lane, and the north and south to divide as "the schoolhouse."

These votes show that the only school house remaining, in 1752, was that at the center, whither it had been removed from Cole's Hill, in 1731. In December, 1754, it was voted to sell this to the lowest bidder.

In 1756, new lines were established for the three subdivisions, or branches of the Parish, the Society, or parish, continuing to manage the whole. The west section embraced that part, substantially, of the present west *district* which lies south of the Berlin road; the divisional line between the two sections known as the north and south schools, being the same Berlin road (*i. e.*, running west from the Rocky Hill landing), continued east to the river. At the same time a schoolhouse was ordered built for the South school, to be set north of Hog Brook, at the foot of the Hill below the burying ground. Another one, for the North school, was to be placed near the south side of Jonathan Boardman's lot, in the highway, and on the east side of it. The sum of £48-14s was voted to defray the cost of these two houses. In these two houses school was kept fifteen weeks in the year.

In the west section, where thitherto a school had been kept six weeks in the year, at parish expense, it was, in 1773, voted to pay for schooling there for two and a half months in the year, if that section would build a school house at its own cost. Two new schoolhouses were also ordered built the same year. One of these, in the north section, was to be set in the highway, near the north side of Rev. Mr. Merriam's home lot; the other, in the south section, on Cole's Hill, between the mouth of the lane leading from the waterside, and the house of Ephraim Williams.

It is evident that a fourth, or central section was now desired; for, in 1773, the parish voted to "take the frame that is already set up for a schoolhouse, near the meeting house, for one of the aforesaid schoolhouses, provided y<sup>e</sup> owners will let us have it for the just value"; whence it appears that private individuals had undertaken to meet a want which the parish had not met.

In 1774, the committee was directed to "mend" the schoolhouses, so as to make them comfortable for the winter then coming. Whether this vote appertains to old buildings, or to new ones then not completed, does not appear, but probably the former; for in 1780, the committee was directed to "view the S. schoolhouse and see if it is worth repairing."

In 1779, the central section was established, and thereafter there continued to be four schools in the parish. In the meantime, the building whose frame had been built in 1773 was completed, as it seems, and was now made to serve for the "middle" schoolhouse. It stood on the triangular plot between the roads near the present residence of Dr. Rufus W. Griswold.

From the unpublished "*State Archives*," Vol. II., it appears that in January, 1782, on the petition of John Robbins, Giles Deming, Charles



Butler and Isaac Riley, all of Stepney parish—the Society was, for the first time, divided into “districts.” They recite the fact that the parish had already voted to divide. The districts were outlined by the Legislature, as follows:—A line from the mouth of Hog Brook northwesterly to the S. W. corner of John Benton’s home lot; thence a more westerly course to the S. E. corner of Elijah Goodrich’s home lot; thence, parallel with the S. side of said lot to Dea. Goodrich’s lot; thence North on the line between said lot and the W. side of Jac. Riley’s lot, to a highway; thence, on said highway, to the western district; all S. of this line to be the South district. But Capt. Elias Williams, “and such as in future shall live in his house,” were excluded. This was to be known as the *Second School district*.

Next, a line from the N. W. corner of Prescott Bulkley’s home-lot, parallel with N. side of it, to the Great River; and from the forementioned corner a westerly course to the S. W. corner of Capt. Elias Williams’ south common lot, so called; thence, parallel with the S. line of said lot, till it meets the Western district—to be the *Third School District*.

Next, all that part of Stepney Society lying between the two districts aforesaid to be the *First School district*.

It is the opinion of Dr. Griswold, who has examined the Society and district records—that a new schoolhouse of brick was built, in 1782, for the North, or Third District, standing on the east side of the main road, nearly opposite to the old house now occupied by Jason Boardman’s family. This is also supposed to have been the site of its predecessor. Also that a new one was built the same year for the South, or Second District, at the head of the road running westerly from, and nearly opposite to the present brick schoolhouse in that district. Rocky Hill followed the usage of that day, and built its schoolhouses in the street.

At the May session, 1791, the General Assembly established a fourth district in Stepney parish, which it named the “Western District.” Its territory was defined to be the southwest part of the parish “without the limits of any school district heretofore made and established by law.” The new district built its schoolhouse (if it was not already built), of wood, in the road, a little south of its present building, which was constructed, of brick, in 1850. The old one was moved away. Where does it stand?

The Middle District schoolhouse, of wood, was occupied for school purposes until about the year 1800, when it was removed to the River landing and became a dwelling house. In 1871, being in the way of the

Valley R. R., it was again removed to its present site, on the Dividend road, between the burying ground and Hog Brook. The North District schoolhouse, of brick, was used till 1845 (?) when the present structure was built; and the bricks of the old one were used in the new one. The South District schoolhouse, of wood, was used until 1849, when it was replaced by the present one of brick. The old one was removed to the north side of Hog Brook, where it is now used as a dwelling house.

The present two-story schoolhouse, of brick, in the center, was built about the year 1800. The cost of it was paid in part by taxation, and partly by funds subscribed for that purpose. The date is fixed only approximately, as the district records of the period are lost. Mrs. Ackley Williams (in 1881), ninety-three years of age then, said it was built when she was about twelve years old. Abraham Jagger, the contractor, being unable to collect the subscriptions, was financially ruined in consequence. The building was destroyed by fire on the night of December 31st, 1839. It was rebuilt on the old walls, the lower story being made into two schoolrooms, and the upper one converted into a hall for public purposes. Here the Society of the "Sons of Temperance" held its sessions, for about three years, beginning in 1849. The Ecclesiastical Society of Rocky Hill also held its meetings here, and still controls it. A Town High School has been kept in it at sundry times. It has also been used for concerts, lectures, shows, "lyceums," fairs, festivals, etc. Episcopal services have been held in it, and the Catholics have said their masses here.

The bricks used in its original construction, and also in the North schoolhouse which preceded the present North schoolhouse, are said to have been made near Goff's bridge, within the limits of Stepney parish.

Under the article WETHERSFIELD, we have referred to a change made in the dividing line between the Griswoldville school district of Wethersfield, and the Western school district of Rocky Hill, in 1850; also in that between the South school district of Wethersfield and the North school district of Rocky Hill, in 1858.

SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS OF NEWINGTON PARISH.—Our information as to the history of schools and schoolhouses in this parish is mostly drawn from its Society (the Ecclesiastical, or Parish) records, which have been transcribed and published by Roger Welles, Esq., in his "*Annals*," in 1874. From these it appears that in December, 1723, Jebezeth Whittlesey and Isaac Buck were chosen a committee to "take the charge of a school." In January, 1726, it was again voted to "have a school," the expense of which, in excess of the amount raised by taxa-

tion, was to be raised on the polls of the children that go to school." A similar vote was passed in December, 1728. No mention of a school-house had been made up to this time; but in December, 1729, Ebenezer Kilbourn and Nathaniel Churchill were chosen a committee "to cover the schoolhouse." It would seem from this vote that such a building had existed at least long enough to require substantial repairs. It is probable that it stood in the highway, and near the meeting house.

In 1734, for the first time, it became necessary to have more than one school. In December of that year, Lieut. Martin Kellogg and David Wright being the committee, the parish voted to have a school kept two months at the north end, four months in the middle, and two at the south end of the parish. In 1737, 1739 and 1740, the votes indicate that three schools were kept, but the records speak of them as *one*; for the reason that they were *branches* of one and the same institution. In December, 1744, it was voted that "the school should be divided into four parts for the year ensuing." Also that the "west side people" [Stanley Quarter] have a reasonable allowance in respect of the school for the time past."

From this point we follow the history of the NEWINGTON SCHOOLS as given in Chapter XIX.

*Teachers.*—We lack the space and *data* for furnishing a list of the teachers of the district schools of Wethersfield. It is quite certain that, especially in the early history of the town—the instructors of youth were persons, as a rule, who afterward became distinguished in public affairs, and identified with the important civil and military events of the times. But, unfortunately, the district records of votes rarely mention, and then, only incidentally, the names of their "Schoolmasters"; and the records of district treasurers are about the only source of the meager information obtainable on the subject. We must therefore, forego, for the present, any account embodying the names of those instructors.

[Among others of Wethersfield birth, who, as teachers, did good educational work *elsewhere*, in the earlier days, may be named, 1682-83, Rev. SAMUEL (son of Rev. John) RUSSELL; grad. H. C., minister at Branford, Ct.; 1694-5, Rev. SALMON (s. Rev. James) TREAT, grad. H. C., minister at Boston; 1698-9, Rev. JOSEPH (s. Lieut. Philip) SMITH, grad. H. C., minister at Upper Middletown; 1709-11, Rev. DANIEL (s. of Daniel) BOARDMAN, grad. H. C. minister at New Milford, Ct.; 1711-12, Rev. ELISHA (s. Rev. Wm.) WILLIAMS, grad. H. C. Rector of Yale College, and minister at Newington; 1723-24, Rev. BENJAMIN (s. Nath'l) DICKINSON, grad. H. C.; *et alias*.—H. R. S.]

SEPARATION OF CHURCH FROM SCHOOL.—In 1809, the “First Society in Wethersfield” began to adopt, at times, the name of the “First *Ecclesiastical* Society in Wethersfield.” But it was not till January, 1816, that the latter title came to be continuously used in the Society’s records of its doings. It had ceased, practically, to exercise jurisdiction and control of educational matters, since the formation of the school districts, in 1772. In 1783, an independent religious organization, of “Separates,” existed within the limits of the established, or “Presbyterian” Society; but the Separates can not be said to have had territorial limits. Gradually there came to be two distinct corporations, having the same extent, territorially speaking: The First *Ecclesiastical* Society, the original church organization at Wethersfield represented today by the “First Congregational Church,” at one time called Presbyterian; and the First *School* Society, which controls the burying ground, fire organizations, High school, and other matters once under the control of the First Society, otherwise Wethersfield Parish. Down to 1829, the meetings of the First *Ecclesiastical* Society are called meetings of the “*Inhabitants*” of the Society; after that date they are called meetings of the “*members*.”

In 1797, the First *School* Society seems to have held its first meeting as such. It was held November 30th, and the record calls it a meeting of “The School Society in the First Society in Wethersfield.” It was not till September 15th, in the year 1800, that the present title—“The First School Society”—was adopted. This organization may now be said to be the only one which retains parochial limits, dating, by succession, from 1712, and exercises parochial powers, in Wethersfield. For, with the advent of other religious bodies than the ancient Congregational Church, certainly with the formation of the Constitution of this State—the First *Ecclesiastical* Society ceased to exist as a corporation having fixed territorial limits.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS, ETC.—Schools for special instruction existed in Wethersfield, at a very early period. In 1665, the Town voted to have a “writing school”; but no reference to such an institution again appears for many years, though it may have been continuous. Vocal music was early taught, under the auspices of the First Society. On the 16th of December, 1734, it voted the sum of five pounds “to be bestowed on a singing master”; and thereafter it was probably pretty regularly taught. Only in one instance, December 20th, 1781, do we find the name of the instructor of this branch of education upon the records; in this case “Mr. Law” was employed. In 1797, the Society committee were author-



ized to hire a room, make benches, and furnish "fire and candles," for the use of the Singing School.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS have been maintained, one or more, almost constantly, for, perhaps a hundred years past, in Wethersfield village. That of which FREDERICK BUTLER (father of the late Chief Judge Thomas B. Butler), was the head, maintained a high character in its class. The young gentlemen under his charge, many of whom became prominent in public matters, were taught at the Academy building. Mr. Butler was the author of a *History of the United States, Life of Washington, Life of Lafayette*, and other works for titles of which see the *Butler Genealogy*, in our second volume.

Of private schools at a later period we learn from various private records, mss., papers, etc., that in 1789, BENJAMIN STILLMAN, and also SAMUEL P. WILLIAMS taught scholars; in 1808, Rev. ROYAL ROBBINS, and SAMUEL C. MORGAN in 1813, received scholars for instruction.

*The Female Seminary* of the Rev. Joseph Emerson attained a reputation commensurate with its success in its special field of labor. It began in 1824. It achieved a more than local fame as early as 1826. Mr. Emerson's school was in the Academy building; but upon his decease it was transferred to the dwelling house of his widow, nearly opposite, and was conducted for some years by Mrs. Emerson. Mr. Emerson came from Sangus, Mass., and was the editor of several works of an educational character, the most widely known among which, perhaps, was his school edition of *Watts on the Mind*.—See *Genealogies*, Vol. II.

From a very scarce pamphlet of sixty pages, entitled "*Prospectus of the Female Seminary*, etc., etc.," printed in 1826 by Alfred Francis, some idea of the school is obtained. This "Prospectus" bears the date January 25, 1826. The principal branches pursued were:—Reading, Chirography, Arithmetic, Geography, Grammar, Rhetoric, Composition, History, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Intellectual Philosophy, Logic, Education, and Theology. "Most of the young Ladies," it states, "will also devote some attention to Pronunciation, Spelling, Defining, Pen-making, Geometry, Drawing, Punctuation, Astronomy, Chronology and Exegesis." There were three classes:—Senior, Middle and Junior. The requisite age for admission to the lowest class was 13 years. Requisite age for Middle class was 14 years; for Senior class 15 years. Two recitations a day. "If any young lady should find her lessons too easy, she may devote her spare moments either to reading and consulting such works as may conduce to give her a more thorough and extended view of the branches, to which she attends; or she may be advanced to a





THE ACADEMY.



THE HIGH SCHOOL.

higher class, or have extra lessons assigned etc." The opening of the Seminary for the season is announced. Two terms of fourteen weeks each separated by a vacation of a fortnight; the first will commence on second Wednesday in April. The second the last Wednesday in July. Price of tuition \$7 a term payable in advance." The prospectus also announces that "a Preparatory School has already commenced. Its principal object is to prepare young Ladies for the Seminary." . . . "Young masters also are here instructed in the same branches. This school is taught principally by Mrs. and Miss Emerson. It will continue, till within a fortnight of the opening of the Seminary. Price of instruction and fuel in this School 42 cents a week."

At the same time a "Collateral School" is announced, "This School will commence at the same time with the Seminary. It is designed for young Ladies and Misses who may not be sufficiently advanced to join the Seminary. Price of Instruction, 30 cents a week."

Price of board at the three schools \$1.50 a week, not including washing, fuel and light.

The *entire* "course of instruction at the Seminary will embrace 3 seasons of 28 weeks each."

Regulations of Seminary (26 in all) require, among other things, of the young ladies

1.—That they regularly and seasonably attend both exercises of public worship on the Sabbath.

2.—That they do not spend any part of that sacred day in visiting; or unnecessarily walking or riding abroad.

4.—That they do not go more than two miles from the Seminary Hall without special permission.

5.—That they do not walk in any field, pasture, or other enclosure, without the consent of the occupant.

21.—That they never indulge themselves in saying *can't*, or, in any way expressing their inability to perform any exercise required.

The ACADEMY, or what was later called the HIGH SCHOOL Building, was begun, as a private enterprise, in 1801. The leader in the movement was Col. John Chester, and to his energy was due the successful prosecution of the work. He headed a list of subscribers who pledged themselves to raise £300 for the erection of a brick structure, conditioned upon the raising of £230 in addition by Town or Society tax. The building was to be in two stories, 56 feet long and 30 wide; to have two rooms on the lower floor, one for males, the other for



females; also "a single chamber over said two rooms, for the use of public meetings of the freemen, Town and Society, and for public exhibitions of any and all the schools."

The petition was first presented to the First Society [Ecclesiastical] on the 21st of December, 1801. On the 24th of the same month the vote was passed, at a meeting of the "inhabitants" of the Society, to build such a structure; and Daniel Buck, Levi Churchill and Stephen Chester were chosen a committee to build, with instructions to set it "between the meeting house and the corner where Levi Riley now dwells."

A doubt seems to have arisen whether the First Society could lawfully pass such a vote. For, in a meeting of the First *School* Society, held April 19th, 1802, a tax of four cents on the dollar was laid, "in lieu of four cents of the tax of six cents voted at the *Society* meeting on the 24th of December last." And the School Society collector was directed to collect and pay over to the building committee, the amount levied. On the 20th of April, the School Society further voted to set the building as had been provided by the First Society, on condition that the cost of the site should not exceed \$200.

In February, 1804, the committee reported the building completed, and that it had cost \$3294.52. The School Society then voted to raise, by tax, the deficiency needed to make up the excess of cost above the cash received. We have already referred to the school or "Seminary" kept in it by Mr. Butler and Mr. Emerson. A list of all who have taught here, as principal or assistant, would be interesting. Sometimes it has been called the High School, now the Town Hall. It contains the library and Town Clerk's office; but mostly the Academy. It has not always been managed with success. Once, in 1823, it was proposed (in the absence of any right to sell it), to lease it for 999 years. Usually it has been occupied, on the ground floor, by select schools, kept at private charge, but having the use of these rooms granted to them. In 1839, a public High School was established here by vote; the experiment was unsuccessful, and in 1842 the vote was rescinded. It was reëstablished in the same year, but it did not long endure; for in 1850 the School Society chose a committee to ascertain what might be done in order to establish a High School. An attempt was made in 1855 to establish a graded school here, but it did not succeed. In the meantime the "Academy" School was maintained as a public or private institution pretty regularly. The present High School Building was dedicated, May 8th, 1894.

*Teachers at Academy* have been a Mr. Cady; F. G. Johnson, 1850-2;\* C. Lounsbury, 1853; A. McKeon, 1850; Wait R. Griswold, 1847-9; Albert C. Griswold, 1849; A. Roe, 1855 (Amos Row\*, ?); Samuel Galpin, Jr.; Noah B. Clarke; Chas. L. Hungerford; Leonard R. Welles.

In 1867, Mr. CHAUNCEY ROSE, a wealthy citizen of Terre Haute, Ind., but a native of Wethersfield, donated to the First Society the sum of \$6000, conditioned that it be used in the maintenance of a Public High School within its limits. The result was that, in March, 1868, a *Free High School* was voted, to be under the direction of the School visitors, and open to all qualified children in the Society. Since that time a High School, now apparently on a permanent basis, was maintained in the Academy building, at the public expense. Mr. J. O. Hurlburt, now dec'd, a native of East Hartford, was long the principal, and his labors in the cause of education have met with much success.

The public school continued in the old Academy Building until the new or present High School was erected.

The Hall in the upper part of this Academy is the only one in the village. In it the "freemen's meetings" and elections, which formerly were held in the "meeting house," at present called the First Congregational Church—have been held for many years. At times a private school has been kept in it, independently of the regular school kept in the lower rooms. Religious services were held here by the Catholics undisturbed, prior to the erection of their church edifice, in 1880; but when the Methodists, prior to the erection of *their* house of worship, in 1824, were granted permission to worship here—it was actually the cause of a riot. This illustrates the liberal progress which has taken the place of bigotry in this village; and intolerance was probably no more pronounced here than in most New England communities. All kinds of public exhibitions, exercises, fairs, concerts and meetings have been held in Academy Hall; but, perhaps the last stated use to which it was put was that of serving as an armory for Company F, 1st Regt., Connecticut National Guard, from 1866-70.

WOMEN AS TEACHERS.—The earliest instance we have been able to find of the employment of a woman as a school-teacher; is in December, 1760, when Newington Society voted, that the "Middle" branch-school then, in the summer, should be kept by a "school dame." We also have the following memorandum (copied from the original paper by Judge S. W. Adams), relating to a private school during the Revolutionary period:

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\* See *Allibone's Dict. of Authors*.

"The Names of those whose Children were schooled by Sarah Reynolds, att the Brick [Schoolhouse] in Broad Street, from July the six to Sept. 13th 1777; with the number of Children each one sent, & the whole number of weeks, are as follows:—

	No. of Children.	No. of Weeks.		No. of Children	No. or Weeks.
Williams, Othniel	2	18	Benton, Jno	2	16
Bulkley, Benjamin	1	9	Deming, Able	2	17
Kilby, Widow	2	16	Robbins, Apelton	1	8
Bordiman, Charles	1	9	Robbins, Wido Joshua	2	16
Bedel, Jonathan	1	9	Crane, Wido. Jno	1	8
Rily, Samuel	1	9	Kilby, Christopher	2	14
Bulkley, Jno	1	9	Robbins, Oliver	1	3
Hart, Doctr Josiah	1	9	Bulkeley, Charles	1	7
Robbins, Wido. Hezia	1	9	Reynolds, John, Jr.,	2	14
Belding, Jno	2	16	Addams, Benjamin	2	14
Warner, Daniel	2	25	Willard, Stephen	2	13

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275 Weeks.

YALE COLLEGE IN WETHERSFIELD.—It seems appropriate that we should conclude this outline history of education in Wethersfield by referring to the fact that, for a brief period, Yale College had its home in this town. This venerable institution, though established at Saybrook in 1701, had its classes instructed at Kilingworth (now Clinton) until 1707. Early in the year 1716, there was much dissatisfaction among the students, both on account of the youth and inexperience of the two tutors then in charge, and owing to the insufficient accommodations provided for the pupils at Saybrook. A considerable number of these pupils happened to be from the neighborhood of Wethersfield and Hartford; and they asserted that they could find much better accommodations, as well as facilities for tuition, nearer their homes. The question of removing the college from Saybrook to some more eligible place was vigorously agitated, and Wethersfield, Hartford, New Haven and some other towns entered into active competition for the honor of being the home of the collegiate school. The action of the College Trustees, at this juncture, seems to have lacked firmness, and a vote passed by them that "these students who were uneasy, might go to other places for instruction until the next Commencement," was construed by many of the students and their parents, as favorable to their own wishes; and "immediately upon this, many of the scholars repaired to their respective homes and where they might have instruction to their minds; a considerable number gathering at Wethersfield,"<sup>1</sup> attracted thither by

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<sup>1</sup> See Dexter's *Yale Biographies*.

Mr. [Elisha] Williams' reputation as a teacher, recommended as he was, by the active influence of Messrs. Woodridge and Buckingham, two leading ministers of Hartford, who seem to have been at the bottom of this college *embroglio* and who vouched for Mr. Williams as being "a better teacher than any at Saybrook." Meanwhile, a Mr. Samuel Smith, of Glastonbury, had been appointed as a third tutor, but did not immediately accept—being evidently "on the fence." But, later, he was induced by the two malcontent Hartford ministers referred to, to go to Wethersfield, and, in connection with Mr. Williams, to open there a rival school. There were then thirteen of the Yale pupils at New Haven, *fourteen at Wethersfield*, and three or four at Saybrook, under Rev. Azariah Mather, a former tutor. The fight was now well on; feeling ran high between the competing towns; the matter of the college's location had become a "burning question" in the Colony; the Trustees knew not which way to turn and the General Assembly had also taken the matter in hand. At the Commencement, in September, 1716, at New Haven, four students took their first degree, and, *on the same day*, one received his degree at Wethersfield, from the hands of Rev. Mr. Woodbridge. This solitary graduate was Mr. ISAAC BURE, of Hartford.<sup>1</sup> Finally, after a patient hearing of all the facts in the case, the General Assembly decided in favor of New Haven; the Trustees again invited Mr. Smith to act as tutor there, and urged the students who had been under his and Mr. Williams' tuition to return and continue their studies at New Haven. But Mr. Smith did not accept and Mr. Woodbridge's advice detained the scholars at Wethersfield, so that the end of the trouble seemed not so near as had been hoped. And, indeed, it was not until October, 1718, that the affair was concluded, by the passage of an Act of the General Assembly, providing "for a conclusion of all difficulties and misunderstandings," that the Wethersfield graduates were to be admitted to degrees at New Haven, without further examinations; and that the scholars then present at Wethersfield should come to New Haven and be admitted to a corresponding collegiate standing there. Furthermore, as a poultice to their wounded feelings and disappointed ambitions, the school at Saybrook was to receive a sum of £50; and to Hartford (which town had been the most active rival), was awarded an appropriation of £500 to be applied on the building of a State House! And so ended the brief career of Yale College in Wethersfield.

The presence in the town of this considerable number of students is

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<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.* 164.



recognized by the following Town Vote, November 19, 1716, providing for their accommodation at public services in the meeting house: "Y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Scholars now resident in Weathersfield, which belong to y<sup>e</sup> Collegiate School [Yale College], shall have liberty to build y<sup>m</sup> [them] a seat, from y<sup>e</sup> Gallery to y<sup>e</sup> Pulpit, on y<sup>e</sup> south side of y<sup>e</sup> meeting house; they [the students] paying y<sup>e</sup> charge y<sup>r</sup> of."

Where, in Wethersfield, these students received their instruction, it is impossible now to say. In 1719, Mr. Williams had purchased of Samuel Boardman, the John Wadham's homestead, being a part of the old Nathaniel Foote home-lot on the southeast side of Broad Street, and this is the earliest known residence of Mr. Williams in Wethersfield. And, again, it is possible that the students met for recitations at the parsonage, then occupied by the Rev. Stephen Mix, himself a Harvard graduate.

This fact of Mr. Williams' and of Wethersfield's connection (though temporary) with Yale College, was undoubtedly one of the causes which led to his being subsequently called to the rectorship of Yale College.

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<sup>1</sup> His name appears upon the College books as one of the tutors, because after the matter of the School's settlement at New Haven was fully determined, it was thought better as a means of conciliation, that his irregular appointment should be confirmed; but he never acted as a tutor, except in Wethersfield.

## CHAPTER X.

### *Wethersfield's Share in the French and Indian Wars.*

BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ.

THE earliest date at which the Wethersfield Train-band was commanded by a regularly commissioned captain, was in May, 1670, when SAMUEL WELLES held this rank, and John Chester was his lieutenant of the company of "troopers" (dragoons) for Hartford County, and as such he commanded a body of 40 men (15 each from Hartford and Windsor and 10 from Wethersfield), in an expedition to Northampton and Hadley, in Oct., 1677. In Oct., 1679, SAMUEL TALCOTT was transferred to the troop as its lieutenant, James Treat taking his place in the train-band; and in October, 1681, Talcott was promoted to the captaincy of the troop. During the Andros "Usurpation," 60 men were sent by his order, from Connecticut, in November, 1688, to Northfield, Mass., under the command of Capt. Jonathan Bull of Hartford. We can not find the names of the Wethersfield men on this service, but it is probable that Capt. SAMUEL TALCOTT and Lieut. SAMUEL STEELE—both of the county dragoons—were of the number. Andros was deposed in the following April.

In June, 1689, Wethersfield had, for the first time, two military companies, or "train-bands"; officered (in September of that year), as follows: "The *South* (Broad St.) *Company*, JOHN CHESTER, Captain; JOHN BUTTOLPH, Lieutenant; JOHN CHESTER, Jr., Ensign. The *North* (High St.) *Company* was officered thus, ROBERT (grandson of Gov. Thomas) WELLES; Captain; WILL. WARNER, Lieutenant; SAM. BUTLER, Ensign. This was on the eve of the war known in history as

*King William's War* with France, 1690-97, and military operations were active. Lieut. THOMAS HOLLISTER was lieutenant in Capt. Dennison's volunteers from Hartford and New London Counties, and his brother Stephen was soon to be an efficient officer in the Hartford County dragoons. Capt. SAMUEL TALCOTT, an able soldier, commanded the dragoons at Deerfield, Mass., June 1690, at the outbreak of the war, and was, also, probably with the Wood Creek expedition under Maj. Gen. Winthrop in August of that year—a fruitless campaign. In October, 1692, STEPHEN HOLLISTER was made Lieut. of dragoons; SAM. (son of Capt.

Samuel) TALCOTT, cornet; and JOSHUA (son of Hugh?) WELLES, ensign. This company, the same month, was sent to Albany for service against the Indians of the vicinity, then threatening Massachusetts. In the following March (or June), Lieut. STEPHEN HOLLISTER was in Capt Whiting's picked company of 64 men, in the expedition to Deerfield, Mass, remaining there several months. In October, 1696, he commanded the special detachment of 40 men sent from Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield, to Hadley, Mass., then (since the abandonment of Northfield) the northermost town on Connecticut River. As such, it became necessary to garrison and hold it, both for defensive and offensive purposes, and it served as a barrier against hostile French and Indian attacks from Canada. So, too, at Albany, troops from the River towns of Hartford County were stationed most of the time; and a close watch kept on the movements of the Five Nation tribes, the Maquas and the Canadian French. In the latter service, the company of Hartford County dragoons were the main reliance of New York and Massachusetts.

We are unable to give the names of any Wethersfield men lost in this war. In September, 1696, DANIEL BELDEN, son of William and Thomasina, of Wethersfield, was captured and carried away by Indians at Deerfield, with a son Nathaniel and a daughter Esther. His wife Elizabeth, who was a daughter of Nathaniel Foote, Jr., was killed, as were three of her children; and two other children were wounded. The Dickinsons and other families of Wethersfield descent were sufferers at Hadley and its vicinity from the Indian enemy. Perhaps, the last movements in this war, in which Wethersfield men participated, were the expedition to Albany, in October, 1696, wherein Sgt. JONATHAN COLFAX, with the Wethersfield quota, joined Col. Fletcher's command of 60 men; and in June, 1697, when Lieut. STEPHEN HOLLISTER was sent, second in command, with 50 men under Capt. Whiting to Massachusetts, where they remained until October. The news of the Treaty of Ryswick, which terminated this war, did not reach New England, until December, 1697; and the Indians continued hostilities some months after the French had ceased.

In May, 1698, Wethersfield was divided into two military precincts, the first formation of districts within the Town for any purpose. The line separating the two divisions was nearly, if not exactly, identical with that now dividing Broad Street and High Street school districts. The South, or Broad Street, precinct was reserved for the "First" Company, commanded by Capt. JOHN (son of Capt. John—who had died in 1698) CHESTER; the "Second" for the Second Company, under Capt.

ROBERT WELLES—probably the Second. From this time until 1702, comparative peace and quiet was the rule.

*Queen Anne's War, 1703-1713.* But, with the accession to the British Throne of Queen Anne, a war was waged between England, Germany and the States General on the one side, and France and Spain on the other; and the Indians, as usual, were divided as to which side they should take. And so the Colonies became involved in a war, which lasted over a decade of years.

In this period of unrest, the Connecticut towns felt the need of renewed protective measures, within their own borders. Invasion by the French and Indians, from Canada, was by no means an impossible or improbable danger to be guarded against. In 1703, Massachusetts was at war with her Eastern Indian neighbors; and asking for help from Connecticut, who felt that her own borders were threatened. The Connecticut legislature, in March, 1703-4, required the towns to fortify such houses within their respective limits as the local authorities should deem necessary. Wethersfield decided, June 30, 1704, to *fortify six homes*, viz: Those of Capt. ROBERT WELLES (grandson of Gov. Thomas), Rev. STEPHEN MIX, DAVID WRIGHT, Sgt. [John] LATIMER, BENJ. CRANE'S HEIRS, JONATHAN DEMING, the blacksmith. A detail of officers was provided, as follows: "The quarters, or squadrons [to be] devided as by the commission officers were devided before—all except Jacob Griswold to Capt. Wel's garrison [about where the State Prison now stands]; and the persons to order and sett out the work and shares to the particular persons [are]: for *Capt. Wel's Fort*, Capt. Wels, Serg<sup>t</sup>. [John] Curtis & Mr. Thomas Tonsey; for *Mr. Mix's Fort*, Ens. [William] Goodrich [son of Wm. the Settler], Moses Craft & Jonathan Bunce; for *David Wright's Fort*, Sgt. [Samuel?] Wright, Corp. Isaac Borman & Corp. Hurlbutt; for *Sergt. Latimer's Fort*, Lieut. [James, or his son Joseph] Treat, Serg<sup>t</sup>. Latimer & Ebenezer Kilburn; for *Sam. Belden's Fort*, Capt. [Joshua] Robbins, Dan<sup>l</sup> Borman & John Waddams; for Jonathan Deming's Fort, Lieut. [Jonathan] Borman, Serg<sup>t</sup>. [Daniel?] Riley & Jonathan Deming. The squadron may be seen in the draughts of said officers."

The houses thus turned into temporary citadels and castles were situated as follows: Capt. Robert Welles' house, near the present site of the State Prison; Rev. Stephen Mix's house, about where Mr. Chapman's house is, a few rods N. of Amidon's store; Serg<sup>t</sup>. John Latimer's house on the W. side of Broad Street, near the S. end; David Wright's house, we suppose to have been at West Farms [New-



ington]; the Benjamin Crane house was near the site of the house lately occupied by Samuel Coleman, deceased; Jonathan Deming's house, was in Rocky Hill, on the corner where now stands the dwelling of James Warner.

This appears to have been the last occasion of any action, on the part of the town looking towards a state of siege. None of these fortified houses remain. It will be noted, as an interesting fact in connection with this matter, that, although this was seventy years after the first occupation of Wethersfield, there were very few inhabitants then living outside of the narrow limits of the original settlement.

In 1703, when the Colonial military operations began, Capt. Chester commanded the first Wethersfield Company; but he was soon promoted to be Sergeant Major for Hartford County. JOSHUA ROBBINS succeeded him as Captain, JONATHAN BOARDMAN becoming Lieutenant, and JONATHAN BELDEN, the Ensign. THOMAS (son of Samuel) WELLES was Captain of the Second Company; BENJ. CHURCHILL, Lieut.; and WILLIAM (son of Ens. William) GOODRICH, Ensign. Capt. Welles had succeeded his father, Capt. ROBERT WELLS, "released" in 1701. Two Connecticut companies went to Deerfield, in October, 1703; and in February, 1704, occurred the horrible massacre at that place. In the following May, 60 of the Hartford County dragoons were dispatched to Cohasset, and other Massachusetts settlements—and DAVID GOODRICH, of Wethersfield, served in this expedition as Lieutenant. Capt. JONATHAN (son of Thomas 2d) WELLES, of Wethersfield, was then living in Deerfield, in command of the forces there.

In October, 1705, two Wethersfield men, SAMUEL WOLCOTT and JAMES STEELE were made Captain and Lieutenant, respectively, of the Hartford County "troop" of dragoons, the most active Connecticut company in the service. Wolcott was a grandson of Henry the Settler—ancestor of the famous Wolcott family of Connecticut.

In May, 1709, Lieut. JOHN WELLES, of Deerfield, a grandson of Thomas Welles, 2d, and a native of Wethersfield, was slain by the Indians on Onion River.

It was about this time that an expedition was organized for service against Canada, 350 troops being sent from this Colony. They got no farther than Albany and Wood Creek, and at the latter place encamped through the summer and autumn of 1709, and, by disease or otherwise, lost 90 men. They were under the general command of Col. William Whiting, of Hartford; Wethersfield quota was 16, Hartford and Wethersfield, 22 each and Glastonbury, 6. Capt. DAVID GOODRICH, of Wethersfield, was both adjutant and quartermaster for

the campaign. STEPHEN HOLLISTER, Captain, died in camp at Greenbusk, in October.

In 1710, JAMES STEELE was promoted to the captaincy of the dragoons, and STEPHEN WILLARD became cornet. In October, Col. Whiting's command was employed in the reduction of Port Royal, Nova Scotia. In the capture of this important place, Wethersfield did its share. It appears that the "First" (Broad Street) Company, under Capt. JOSHUA ROBBINS<sup>1</sup> (Stepney), was there; certainly JONATHAN BELDEN, its lieutenant was present. One Wethersfield man, DAVID RILEY, was seriously wounded. Of all the attacking forces, only 40 men were lost, 26 of whom were by drowning.

In August, 1711, 360 Connecticut men under Col. Whiting, took part in an expedition north of Albany, *via* New Haven and Hudson River. The Wethersfield contingent was commanded by Capt. THOS. WELLES, and it was composed of volunteers from the two regular companies, or train bands of the town. He was, at that time, Captain of the Second (High Street) Company. JOSEPH GARRETT was one of the Wethersfield sergeants in this service. This unprofitable campaign was followed, in February, 1712, by another—in which two Connecticut companies, furnished with moccasins and snow shoes, were dispatched to a point 30 miles above Deerfield. One of these companies was commanded by Capt. DAVID GOODRICH. Perhaps, it was at this time that MARTIN KELLOGG, of Wethersfield, was carried off by Indians, captive to Canada.<sup>2</sup> Probably other companies, than these from Wethersfield were also in the service (for the Council of War had ordered a levy of 300 men) and these troops remained in service until past midsummer. In the meantime, Maj. Chester had died; his father, Capt. John, had died in 1698. Capt. ROBERT WELLES was now sixty-four years old and died two years later. Capt. THOMAS WELLES had died 11 Dec., 1711; and Capt. Treat in 1709—truly, as for Wethersfield "the mighty had fallen."

The treaty of Utrecht, news of which was received in October, 1712, terminated this long and (to Connecticut especially) expensive war, but which had wrested from the French, Nova Scotia, New Foundland, Hudson's Bay and other valuable territory.

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<sup>1</sup> Whether Sen. or Jr. is somewhat uncertain. When in 1722 the first separate company was organized in Stepney, Joshua (probably Jr.) was made Lieut. and Wm. Warner, Capt.

<sup>2</sup> Mart. Kellogg, of Wethersfield, in May, 1745, Petitions Legislature for to be reimbursed for loss of health, etc., among the Indians and French, in captivity, *more than thirty years ago.*

During the next ten years, military events were of little importance. ROBERT WELLES (son of Capt. Robert) was made lieutenant in the Hartford County dragoons, October 7, 1714. In May, 1715, DAVID GOODRICH was made captain of the North Company, JOSEPH TALCOTT, lieutenant, THOMAS (son of Capt. Thomas) ensign. In May, 1716, EPHRAIM GOODRICH (son of Ens. William), became captain of the South Company, Joseph Treat, lieutenant. JOSHUA ROBBINS, 2d ensign. Lieut. Welles become captain at this time. ISAAC RILEY become ensign of the South Company at this time.

For a scant ten years, quiet reigned along the northern frontier of New England, and then again appeared signs of discontent and ill-will among the Canadian Indians, incited thereto by the French. The colonies were quick to appreciate and prepare for the possibilities of another Indian war, and Connecticut, besides garrisoning her own frontiers, was called upon to make heavy sacrifices for the common safety. In October, 1722, a company was formed at Stepney Parish, for the first time, its officers being WILLIAM WARNER, Captain, JOSHUA (probably son of Joshua) ROBBINS, Lieutenant, and SAMUEL (son of Joseph?) SMITH, Ensign.

In May, 1723, the calls made upon Connecticut for assistance, by other colonies, were frequent and urgent. Three companies, under Maj. Joseph Talcott, of Hartford, were sent into Hampshire County, Mass., and one of these, numbering 60 men, from Wethersfield, was commanded by Capt. DAVID GOODRICH, now a veteran fighter of 56 years. In February, 1724, he went north again; this time, probably, as far as Fort Dummer, near the present town of Brattleborough, then the only settlement in what is now Vermont. It is probable that THOS. WELLES was his lieutenant and SAMUEL WOLCOTT, his ensign. Goodrich remained in Massachusetts most of the time, until the close of the war in December, 1725. In this year he became colonel of the Hartford County forces; having also been a member of the "Committee" and "Council" of War, from 1723. Besides the men of his company, Wethersfield sent 11 to Litchfield (the same number as sent from Hartford) in May, 1724.

Although this war received a serious check, in 1724, by the English attack upon and destruction of the Indian Mission Village at Norridgewock, and the death of the Jesuit priest Rale, the instigator of the savage uprisings which had so long disturbed the frontier settlements; yet, it was not at once ended. The Indian attack upon Dunstable in the following autumn and the fearful struggle of May, 1725, known as "Lovewell's Fight," brought, at last the much needed respite.

In 1726, ROBERT (son of Capt. Robert) WELLES was commissioned captain of the Hartford County dragoons, and NATHANIEL STILLMAN (also of Wethersfield) was quartermaster. A "train band" was now organized at Newington, for the first time (being four years later than the one at Rocky Hill); its captain being JOHN CAMP; lieutenant, EPHRIAM DEMING; ensign, RICH. BOARDMAN.

For sometime after the accession of George the Second, there was little occasion for the employment of colonial soldiers. In the latter part of 1739, however, England declared war against Spain, and the American Colonies were called upon to take their share in the reduction of the Spanish settlements in the West Indies. Connecticut showed her usual alacrity in seconding the plans of the royal government; her governor issued a proclamation calling for volunteers, recruiting was actively prosecuted, and the militia of Hartford County was, for the first time, organized into regiments, of which thirteen were made up, each commanded by a colonel. The number of companies to each regiment was not, however, uniform; as each regiment included all the companies within its own specified geographical limits. Wethersfield was in the Sixth Regiment, and with her were associated Middletown (on both sides of the River), Glastonbury and the parish of Kensington. Out of each regiment was organized "a troop" of 64 mounted men. Of this Sixth Regiment, THEODORE WELLES (son of Samuel, Jr.), of Glastonbury, was made colonel, JOHN CHESTER, of Wethersfield, lieutenant colonel; and JABEZ HAMLIN, of Middletown, major. Of the "troop" connected with the regiment, NATHANIEL STILLMAN and JOSIAH GRISWOLD, both of Wethersfield were made respectively, captain and ensign.

In October, 1740, a splendid fleet of over 100 vessels, carrying 15,000 sailors and 12,000 soldiers, fully equipped and provisioned, set sail, under Lord Cathcart, for the West Indies. But valuable time had been foolishly wasted in the concentration of this force, at Dominica; its able leader fell a victim to the climate and his command devolved upon two "incapables," who could not and did not work well together. Before the expedition reached its destination, the French and Spanish fleet had left the deadly climate; and the English found themselves facing the terrible yellow fever, which wrought sudden and fatal havoc in their ranks. Some fighting they had too; but it was ill-advised and rash, and resulted only in defeat. Before the return of the fleet in November, 1741, it was estimated that 20,000 lives had been lost, mostly by pestilence, and that of the 1,000 New England men engaged in the expedition, some one hundred survived. It is fair to suppose



that of this appalling mortality, Wethersfield bore her full proportionate share.

*George The Second's War*, between England and France, began by an almost mutual declaration of hostility, in March, 1744. In its beginning, the success which attended the French in their crippling of the coast fisheries, deeply touched the interests of the New England Colonies, to whom the fish trade was a matter of prime importance; and finding, on trial, that the Royal Government was not inclined to afford them the assistance which they deemed vitally necessary, they determined to undertake their own salvation, without even the aid of the other Colonies outside of New England. A fully equipped fleet and an army of 4,000 soldiers was raised within the short space of two months, and to this force, under Lieut. Gen. William Pepperell, of Massachusetts, Connecticut added 500 men under her Lieut. Governor, Roger Wolcott, of Windsor, who, under commission from the Governors of Massachusetts and Connecticut was Maj. Gen. *second* in command. Wethersfield at this time, had four military companies, the first, commanded by Capt. Jonathen Belden; the second (High Street) by Capt. ELIZUR (son of Col. David) GOODRICH, with JOSEPH (son of Lt. William) GOODRICH, as Lieut.; the third (Stepney) company by Capt. GIDEON (son of Capt. Ephriam) GOODRICH, with JOHN WARNER, as lieutenant. Who was captain of the Newington Company does not appear, but JOSIAH WIL-LARD was its lieutenant, and ROBERT (son of Capt. Robert) WELLES, its ensign. It was in March, 1745, that Capt. Elizur Goodrich, and the other Wethersfield men, probably entered the service in this "New England Army," which on the 22d of April, was joined at Cansoe by a fine fleet of large vessels under Commodore Warren, from the West Indies station. The objective point of the expedition, which set sail full of enthusiasm and joy, was the capture of Louisburg and the Island of Cape Breton. The sloop *Defense*, the one vessel of Connecticut's Colonial navy, accompanied the co-operating British fleet. Louisburg, "strong as Barcelona," was taken in June, 1745, after a fifty days' siege, and with it the whole island passed into British hands—though it was restored to France at the end of the war. Wethersfield had its share of the general rejoicing caused by this most successful campaign. Gov. Wolcott, returning home, by way of the Connecticut River, from the Sound, debarked at New London, whence he came *via* Lyme and Middletown, to Wethersfield, where he stopped a day, and was thence escorted by Hartford and Wethersfield troops and civilians, to his home at Windsor, where, as he records in his diary, "We had a Good Dinner, Drank some bowls of Punch, &c., and after

the Discharge of the Great Artillery and small arms, gave 3 Huzzas, and parted Good friends." Nor was Wethersfield without her own special cause of pride and congratulation. Capt. Elizur Goodrich came back (1 July, 1746) as a Lieut. Colonel; the company which he had taken out was one of the eight forming the Sixth Conn. Regt—all volunteers. Names of others from Newington who served as privates in this expedition will be found in the Newington (XIX) Chapter. Rector ELISHA WILLIAMS (Newington) and Jonathan Trumbull (the "Uncle Jonathan" of the subsequent Revolutionary period) were the Colony's agents at Boston, for procuring supplies of war. The General Assembly appointed the former to be chaplain of the Connecticut troops, and he served a while as such; but the Rev. Simon Backus, of Newington, after a time, went in his stead and died in service at Louisburg, March 16, 1765.

In the summer of 1745, the Connecticut contingent was increased by the addition of five companies of 100 men each, but it does not appear that they went to the front.

*Campaign of 1746.* Among the projected enterprises of this year was a general invasion of Canada, for which undertaking, a force of 600 men was enlisted in May, to be under command of (Rector) ELISHA WILLIAMS, whom from being chaplain, had become colonel. In June, the number was increased to 1,000, and their departure for the St. Lawrence was contingent upon the arrival of a co-operating fleet and army from England. The latter did not come, and the project was ultimately abandoned. Capt. MARTIN KELLOGG, of Wethersfield, from his intimate acquaintance not only with the navigation of that river, but with language of the Indians of that region, had been engaged, in June, as the pilot of the expected British fleet. Though the recapture of Louisburg was planned by the French, and though the New England Colonies proposed a plan for the conquest of Canada, which was not seconded by the Mother Country—the years 1747 and 1748, were passed by both sides in "a masterly inactivity"—terminated in October, of the latter year, by the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle.

In October, 1748, ROBERT WELLES (son of Lieut. Robert, deceased) was made captain of the Newington company, now the 10th of the Sixth Regiment. In October, 1749, JOSIAH GRISWOLD (son of Jacob) was made "captain of the troop of horse," in the same regiment. At the same time, SAMUEL TALCOTT, as Lieut. Col., was allowed £400 for his services in the Cape Breton expedition, and several changes were made in the company organization.

In May, 1751, Capt. MARTIN KELLOGG, of Wethersfield, was sent, as

the Colony's agent, to Hendrick, Chief of the Mohawks, to supply them with clothing, as an inducement to their continuing friendly with the New England Colonies. Nearly forty years before this, he had been a captive among the French and Indians in Canada, where he had acquired valuable knowledge of their language and character, and this mission proved successful.

THE FRENCH WAR, 1754. French intrigue and violation of treaty stipulations soon brought on a renewal of hostilities, and by the spring of 1755, the Northern Colonies were busy with preparations for the coming campaign, in which four expeditions were planned, viz.: (1) against Fort Du Quesne, (2) one against Nova Scotia, (3) one against Crown Point, and (4) one against Niagara. New England was to raise 5,000 men, of which one-fifth was to be supplied from Connecticut. Col. (Rector) ELISHA WILLIAMS, of Wethersfield, who had returned from his mission in London, in April, 1752, was, during 1754, active at Boston as the agent of the Colony of Connecticut in procuring arms and ammunition; and as one of Connecticut's three war commissioners sent to Albany, to confer with the commissioners for the other Colonies. He would undoubtedly have held a command in the new campaign, but for an illness which befell him this year and terminated his life in July, 1755. The Connecticut quota for this Crown Point expedition was ultimately raised to 1,500 to be organized into two regiments. One of these (the second) was placed under the command of Col. ELIZUR GOODRICH, of Wethersfield, and three companies of Connecticut men were authorized to volunteer in the service and pay of the Colony of New York. JOSIAH GRISWOLD, of Wethersfield, was commissioned captain of one of these companies, though it does not appear that he accepted. In August, two more regiments, of 750 men each, were ordered to be raised. In one of these regiments (the third) some Wethersfield men did service, and one at least, MATTHIAS SMITH, was seriously wounded. Another, TIMOTHY ANDROS, was pensioned for disability incurred in this Crown Point campaign. In this third regiment, also, EBENEZER GRISWOLD was a second lieutenant, and CHRIS. PALMER, an ensign. [In the stubbornly fought battle near Lake George, Sept. 8th, 1755, between an English and Colonial force of 2,000 men, with 250 Mohawks, under command of Gen. Sir William Johnson, and 2,500 French and Indians under Gen. Dickens, and which resulted favorably for the English, Colonel ELIZUR GOODRICH of Wethersfield, held a command, and the position of his men within the lines of Fort William Henry, is indicated in the very curious engraving, entitled *A Prospective View*, etc., by Samuel Blodget, who claims to have been

present "vicariously at the Camp where the Battle was fought." It was engraved in Boston, and is reproduced in Vol. IV, *N. Y. Col. Docs.*—*H. R. S.*]

In October, 1755, an additional thousand Connecticut soldiers were raised for Maj. Gen. Sir William Johnson's command, and in the following January, detachments from Col. Whiting's Connecticut regiment garrisoned Ft. Edward; and a little east at Wood Creek and at Albany, about 50 miles below. This campaign resulted advantageously to the English, as did that to Nova Scotia.

At this time (1755) some French prisoners from Nova Scotia, were quartered in Connecticut; they were apportioned among the towns and Wethersfield's portion was nine. They were placed in charge of NICHOLAS AYRAULT, (son of Dr. Nicholas, a prominent citizen of the town), SAMUEL CURTIS and JOSEPH BOARDMAN, and were allowed to work about the village; Col. JOHN CHESTER employed some of them. There was one woman and a boy among the number; some, with others added later, remained in Wethersfield for years.

War was not formally declared against France until May 18, 1756, although it had actually existed for over a year. In February of that year, four regiments, aggregating 2,500 men, were raised for Maj. Gen. Wm. Shirley's command, to operate at Crown Point and Iroquois Lake. In this campaign, which resulted disastrously to the American forces under Maj. Gen. Winslow, of Massachusetts, several Wethersfield officers participated, among them, ELIPHALET WHITTELSEY, captain of the Sixth Co., 4th Regt., the muster roll of which is herewith presented:

Time of Enlistment	Men's Names.	Quality.	Dead and Cap- tivated.	Deserted	When Discharg- ed.	Weeks and Days in Service.
[1756]						
March 26	E. Whittlesy,	Capt.			Nov. 25	35-0
Ditto 26	Edward Marcy,	Lieut.			Sept. 16	25-0
Ditto 26	Thomas Foaster [Foster],	Lieut.	Sep. 30			27
Sept. 6	John Shaw,	Lieut.			Nov. 1	0-0
April 1	Jonathan Brooks,	Ser.			Nov. 16	32-6
April 8	Moses Erles,	Ser.			Nov. 27	33-3
April 9	Abner Cortis [Curtis]	Ser.			Nov. 25	33-0
April 2	Gemaliel Deming,	Ser.			Sept. 28	25-5
March 31	Josiah Wright,	Clark			Sept. 28	26-0
March 31	Henry Koream [Kirkham],	Corp.			Nov. 25	34-2
April 8	Uryah Carpenter,	Corp.			Sept. 30	25-1
April 2	Timothy Royce,	Corp.			Sept. 28	25-5
April 10	Moris Mathew, (?)	Corp.			Sept. 7	25-6
April 1	Benja. Winchit, [Winchell?]	Drum,			Oct. 20	29-0
April 6	Amos Lawrance,	Private			Nov. 25	33-3
April 8	Joshua Ramont,	"			Nov. 27	33-3
March 31	Bille Blin,	[not	filled	out.]		4
April 1	Martin Bronson.	"			Oct. 20	29-0
April 15	Asa (?) Barnes,	"			Oct. 18	26-5



Time of Inlistment.	Men's Names.	Private.	Dead and Cap-tivated.	Deserted.	When Discharg-ed.	Weeks and Days in Service.
[1756]						
May 24	Gideon Barnes,	Private			Nov. 25	26-4
April 8	John Bowin,	"	Oct. 20			28-0
April 20	John Bugbe,	"			Sept. 30	23-3
April 8	David Barns,	"			Nov. 13	31-8
May 1	John Bell,	"			Nov. 25	29-6
May 22	Thomas Bunn,	"			Nov. 3	23-5
May 27	Thomas Bulkly,	"			Nov. 25	26-1
April 11	Backus, Negroe	"			Nov. 25	32-5
April 8	Lenard Cady,	"			Oct. 20	28-0
April 25	John Collins,	"			Oct. 20	25-4
April 1	Abner Curtis, Jr.,	"			Oct. 31	30-4
April 30	James Coburn,	"			Oct. 18	24-4
May 22	William Clark,	"			Oct. 31	23-2
May 23	Samuel Colten,	"			Nov. 25	26-5
March 30	James Curtis,	[not	filled	out.]		4
April 8	Abram Dayley,	"			Oct. 10	26-4
April 3	Dannil Gaines,	[not	filled	out.]		
May 17	William H[art?],	[not	filled	out.]		
April 10	John Hyde,	"		June 3		4-0
March 30	[Name torn off],	"			Oct. 18	29-0
April 8	William Johnson,	"	Sep. 30			25-1
April 5	Richard Kilborn,	"			Nov. 13	31-6
May 27	Eben. Kilbo[urn?]	"			Nov. 25	26-1
April 8	Ephriam Loyon [Lyon?],	"			Nov. 27	33-3
May 5	Nathan Loyon [Lyon?],	"			Nov. 27	29-4
March 30	John Lattemore,	"			Oct. 27	30-2
April 13	Amos Marsy,	"			Sep. 30	24 3
April 12	John Meehall,	"	Oct. 4			25 1
May 11	Robert Martin,	"			Oct. 18	23 0
April 5	James Martin,	"			Oct. 20	28 3
April 5	Robert Martin, Jr.	"			Nov. 25	33 4
May 27	William Nott,	"			Nov. 25	26 1
April 11	Ebenez'ra Prindel,	"			Oct. 20	27 4
April 13	John Poolen,	"			Oct. 20	27 2
May 3	Isaac Parsons,	"	Sep. 11			18 6
April 3	Ezrah Prindel,	"			Nov. 25	33 6
April 10	Elisha Parker,	"			Nov. 25	32 6
May 10	James Parker,	"			Nov. 27	28 6
April 6	Stephen Quccod, (?)	"			Nov. 12	31-4
March 27	Wilson Rouleson	"			Nov. 12	24-2
	[Roulandson]					
March 29	Benja. Ratford,	"			Oct. 10	28 0
March 31	Benja Smith,	"			Nov. 16	33-0
April 8	John Squire,	"			Oct. 20	28-0
April 1	Moses Smith,	"	Oct. 19			28-6
May 27	Gershom Smith,	"			Oct. 18	25-0
May 22	David Spencer,	"			Oct. 18	22-3
April 8	Eben Sanford,	"			Oct. 20	28-0
March 30	Sockhegan, (Ind?)	"			Nov. 25	34-3
April 8	Joseph Sharpe,	"			Sep. 30	25-1
April 8	John Teese,	"			Nov. 27	33-3
April 8	Dick Tripe,	"			Nov. 27	33-3
April 8	Abram Toyler, [Tyler?]	"			Oct. 18	27-5
April 2	Richard Toroway,	"		July 23		4-0
March 30	Jonathan Wright,	"			Nov. 25	34-3
April 28	Francis Whittmore,	"			Nov. 25	30-2
March 29	Jonathan Webb,	"			Nov. 3	31-3
April 3	Ely Whaples,	"			Nov. 25	33-6
March 31	Calib Woolcot,	"			Sept. 28	26-0
April 8	Moses Whitney,	"	May 8			4-3
May 19	Isaac Suneemon,	"			Nov. 27	27-4

[Enclosed] "Deduct Abraham Dayly's wages, who was appointed to attend a sick soldier y<sup>t</sup> dyed 30 Sep<sup>r</sup>, & Dayley therein came home without any known permission. His wages is £9-7- Abraham Tyler conducted after y<sup>e</sup> same manner, whose wages due is 9-7-8."

"Hartford, S. S., January 14, 1757.

"Capt. Eliphalet Whittlesay, within mentioned, personally appeared and made solemn oath that the various enteries, matters and things entered, specified and contained in y<sup>e</sup> foregoing & within written Muster Roll, are all true & just. Hartford, 17 Jan'y, 1757.

*Coram, John Ledyard, Just. Paces."*

[Copied from the original by me, June 5th, 1890.—S. W. Adams.]

In the *Campaign of 1757*, which resulted in the surrender of Fort William Henry to Montcalm's forces, Capt. WHITTELSEY had the command of a picked company of 100 men; the Connecticut forces being one regiment of 1,400 men, selected out of the different regiments. Gen. Webb, the British Commander-in-Chief, was responsible for the failure of the expedition. Israel Putnam was at this time captain of a Connecticut company.

"A Pay Roll of Capt. Eliphalet Whittlesey's Company, in General Lyman's Regiment, for the year 1757:"

Time of Inlistment.	Men's Names.	Quality.	Dead.	Deserted.	Discharged.	Weeks and Days in Service.
[1757]						
Feb. 23d	Eliphalet Whittelsey,	Capt.			Dec. 1	40-3
March 8	Timothy Herlihy,	1st Lt.			" 1	38-2
Feb. 23	Nicholas Nichols,	2d Lt.			" 5	41
"	John Sumner,	Ens.			" 10	41-5
March 4	Jonathan Brooks,	Segt.			" 1	39
" 12	Epaphras Nott,	"			" 1	37-6
" 10	Francis Hollister,	"			" 1	38-1
" 25	Jonathan Johnson,	"			Nov. 20	34-3
" 1	Josiah Wright,	Clerk			Dec. 1	39-3
" 14	Hill Hollister,	Corpl.			" 1	37-3
" 26	Moses Boardman,	"			Nov. 15	33-4
" 8	Timothy Brooks,	"			" 10	35-2
April 2	Peter Butler,	"			Dec. 10	36-1
" 2	Noadiah Heart,	Drum'r			Aug. 30	21-4
March 27	Obediah Allen,	Priv.	Sept. 11			24-1
" 5	Thomas Anthony,	"			Dec. 2	39
" 15	Charles Bartlett,	"			Nov. 11	34-3
" 28	John Beckley,	"			" 24	34-4
" 28	Silas Beckley,	"	Nov. 11			32-5
" 20	Elisha Belding,	"			" 11	33-6
" 29	Samuel Bowers,	"	Oct. 2			26-6
" 30	Nathan Brooks,	"			" 10	32-2
" 8	Thomas Buckley,	"	June 10			13-3
" 9	John Buckley,	"			Dec. 1	38-2
" 1	Thomas Bunn,	"			Nov. 28	38-4

Time of Inlistment.	Men's Names.	Quality.	Dead.	Deserted.	Discharged.	Weeks and Days in Service.
[1757]						
" 1	William Clark,	"			" 11	36-4
" 5	Daniel Cone,	"			Dec. 1	38-6
" 14	Noah Coles,	"			Sept. 16	26-4
" 31	Moses Dickinson,	"			Nov. 11	32-2
" 29	Benoni DeWoolf,	"			Dec. 2	35-4
" 28	Stephen DeWoolf,	"			Nov. 16	33-3
" 7	Ambrose Egelstone,	"			Dec. 1	38-3
" 5	John Foster,	"			Nov. 10	35-6
" 31	Joseph Fox,	"			Dec. 2	35-2
" 28	Benjamin Galpen,	"			" 2	35-5
" 26	John Goff,	"			" 1	35-6
Apr. 8	Caleb Goodrich,	"			" 1	34
Mar. 28	John Hadlock,	"			Nov. 11	32-5
" 16	Jotham Hall,	"				4
" 9	Joseph Harris,	"			Dec. 1	38-1
" 28	John Hart,	"		May 22	" 1	35-4
" 30	Daniel Hill, Jun'r	"			Nov. 11	32-3
" 14	Aaron Hinman,	"			Dec. 2	37-4
" 8	John Holmb's,	"			Nov. 11	35-3
" 14	Martin Hooker,	"	June 10			12-4
" 24	Thomas Homer,	"	Nov. 13			33-4
" 28	Samuel Hubbard,	"			Nov. 24	34-4
" 28	Roswell Hubbard,	"			Dec. 1	35-4
" 7	Jonathan Hubbard,	"			" 2	38-4
" 9	John Jacobs,	"			Nov. 11	35-3
Apr. 7	Davis Johnson,	"			Nov. 15	31-6
Mar. 9	John Keenland, [Kneeland?]	"			Oct. 18	32
" 14	Timothy Lankton,	"			Nov. 20	35-6
" 28	Peter Latch,	"			Nov. 20	34
" 4	John Lattimer,	"			Dec. 1	39
Apr. 5	Daniel Lewis,	"			Dec. 2	34-4
" 1	Robert Lindsey,	"			" 1	35
Feb. 28	John Lindsey,	"			Nov. 11	39-6
Mar. 26	David Lindsey,	"			Dec. 1	35-6
Feb. 28	Lot Loweland,	"			Sept. 1	26-5
" 28	Andrew Lusk,	"			Dec. 1	39-5
Mar. 28	Thomas McCleane,	"			Oct. 18	29-2
" 28	Timothy McKeough,	"			Dec. 1	35-4
Apr. 7	James Mattocks,	"			" 10	35-3
Mar. 9	John Meeker,	"			Nov. 11	35-3
" 23	Lewis Mears,	"	Sept. 6			24
" 20	Charles B. Miller,	"	Aug. 6			20
Apr. 7	Noah Moss,	"				4
Mar. 8	James Murphey,	"			Dec. 2	38-3
" 8	William Nott	"		Apr. 18	Nov. 24	37-2
Apr. 4	John Rany [Ranney]	"			" 10	31-4
Mar. 28	Stephen Ranney,	"			Dec. 1	35-4
" 9	Jonathan Robbins,	"			Nov. 24	37-2
" 8	John Robbins,	"			" 11	35-3
" 1	William Ronlandson,	"	Apr. 27			4
" 26	Moses Scott,	"			Dec. 2	36
" 15	Ephraim Shaylor,	"			" 5	37-6
" 8	Samuel Shilling,	"			Nov. 11	35-3
Apr. 4	James Simons,	"			Dec. 3	34-6
" 9	Timothy Stedman,	"			Aug. 14	18-2
Mar. 7	Giles Stow,	"				4
" 8	Simeon Stow,	"			Dec. 1	38-2
Feb. 28	Isaac Stratton,	"		Aug. 17	" 1	39-5
Mar. 26	John Treat,	"			" 8	36-6
" 23	Thomas Turner,	"			Aug. 9	20

Time of Enlistment.	Men's Names.	Quality.	Dead.	Deserted.	Discharged.	Weeks and Days in Service.
[1757]						
" 23	Andrew Warner,	"			Nov. 10	33-2
Feb. 25	Joseph Wares, [Weares?]	"			Dec. 2	40-2
Mar. 28	John Washbon [Washburn]	"			" 1	35-4
" 28	David Way,	"	Nov. 12		Nov. 11	32-5
" 1	Samuel Wells,	"				36-5
" 9	James Welsh,	"			" 10	35-2
Apr. 2	David West,	"	Nov. 10		Dec. 1	34-6
Mar. 30	Aaron West,	"	Sept. 17			26-4
" 15	Wait Whaples,	"				26-4
Apr. 11	Nathan Whittelsey,	"			Dec. 3	33-6
Mar. 26	Samuel Williams,	"			" 1	35-6
" 1	Jonathan Wright,	"			" 1	39-3
" 17	Daniel Wright,	"			Sept. 1	24
Mar. 31	Henry Halling,	"			Nov. 11	10-3

"Hartford, SS., 22d, Dec., 1755.

Capt. Eliphalet Whittelsey personally appeared, and made Solemn oath that y<sup>e</sup> matters and things entered, specified and charged in the within Muster Roll, are all justly and truely entered and charged.

*Jurat Coran, John Ledyard, Just. Pacis."*

[Copied from the original May 31, 1890, by me. The amount of Pay due each, was omitted. Also the names of the 55 men who drew the King's Provisions, on the way home.—Sherman W. Adams.]

*In the Campaign of 1758*, the Colonies renewed their efforts for conquest, with increased vigor. Four regiments, of twelve companies each, making 5,000 soldiers in all, under command of Gen. Phineas Lyman, of Suffield, were ordered to the front. Fort Edwards was the nearest base of operations, and the immense works at Ticonderoga the objective point. Wethersfield bore its part in this campaign.

One of her citizens, JOSIAH GRISWOLD, was Major of the First regiment; another, ELIPHALET WHITTELEY, was Captain of a Company in the same regiment; Lieut. HEZ. SMITH and Ens. JOSIAH WRIGHT were there. Ticonderoga was not gained; but fort Frontenac, with its 60 cannon, together with nine armed vessels, fell into our hands.



## "Muster Roll of Major Josiah Griswold's Company, 1758:

Names.	When Enlisted.	When Discharged.	Weeks and Days of Service.	Pay, etc.
	[1757]			"Wages."
Maj. Josiah Griswold,	Mch. 10	Nov. 15	35-5	£80 18 4 2
Lieut. David Parsons,	Mch. 27	Nov. 15	33-3	33 8 6 3
Lieut. Joel Catlin,	Mch. 27	Nov. 15	33-3	33 8 6 3
Ens. Nath. Terry,	Mch. 27	Nov. 15	33-3	27 5 0 0
S[erg] Jonathan Robbins,	May 1	Nov. 15	28-3	14 4 3
" Joseph Parsons,	Apr. 3	Nov. 15	32-3	16 4 3
" John French,	May 26	Sept. 26	17-5	8 17 1 2
" Nath'l Colly, [?]	Apr. 20	Nov. 15	30	15 0 0 0
" Thomas Caldor,	May 3	Nov. 15	28-1	14 1 5 0
Dr'mer Ephraim Goodrich,	Apr. 26	Nov. 15	29-1	13 16 10 1
C[orp.] Thomas Abby,	May 25	Nov. 22	26	12 7 0
" Sam Wolcott,	Apr. 25	Nov. 15	29-2	13 18 2 2
" Henry Chandler,	Apr. 13	Nov. 15	31	14 14 6
" Peter Demming,	May 30	Nov. 15	24-2	11 10 8 2
Priv. Jonath. Terry,	Apr. 13	Oct. 12	26-1	11 15 3 2
" Abial Bush,	Apr. 13	Sept. 6	21	9 9 0
				[Died Sept. 6th]
" Ebenezer Spencer,	June 5	Nov. 22	24-3	10 19 10 2
" Silus Kilbe, (?)	Apr. 13	Nov. 15	31	13 19 0 6
" [Steph]en Peas,	Apr. 13	Nov. 15	31	13 19 0 0
" Chas. Purkins,	Apr. 4	Nov. 15	32 2	14 10 7 0
" Isaac Bouthe, [Booth?]	Apr. 4	Oct. 20	28-4	12 17 2
" John Combs,	Apr. 13	Nov. 15	31	13 19 0 0
" Abner Blochet, [Blodget?]	Apr. 4	Nov. 15	32-2	14 10 7
" James Symmus,	May 25	Nov. 15	25	11 5 0
" Nath'l Parsons,	Apr. 4	Nov. 15	32-2	14 10 7
" Eldad Phelps,	Apr. 13	Nov. 15	31	13 19
" Josiah Wright,	May 26	Nov. 11	24-2	10 18 7
				[Died Nov. 11]
" Norman Green,	Apr. 24	Nov. 15	29-3	13 4 10 2
" Timothy Peas,	May 26	Nov. 15	24-6	11 3 9
" Ben. Furman,	May 26	Aug. 25	13-1	5 18 3 2
" Joel Peas,	Apr. 13	Nov. 15	31	13 19 0
" Ruben Purkins,	Apr. 13	Nov. 15	31	13 16 0
" Jesse Sexton,	Apr. 5	Nov. 15	32-1	14 9 3 2
" Helmer Terry,	Apr. 13	Nov. 15	31	13 9
" Judah Benedict,	Apr. 3	Nov. 15	32-3	14 11 10 2
" Stephen Mercomb, (?)	May 27	Nov. 15	24-5	11 2 5 2
" Jonath. Parsons,	Apr. 3	Nov. 15	32-3	14 11 10 2
" Jesse Peas,	Apr. 22	Nov. 15	29-5	13 7 5 2
" Obediah Holebard, [Hurlburt]	Apr. 4	Nov. 15	32-2	14 10 7 0
" Charles Bartlet,	May 30	Nov. 15	24-2	10 18 7 0
" Benjamin Robbison,	Apr. 20	Nov. 15	30	13 10 0
" James Hopkins,	Apr. 20	Nov. 22	31	13 19 0 0
" Daniel Hale,	Apr. 5	Nov. 15	32-1	14 9 32/4
" David Dunham	Apr. 3	Nov. 15	32-3	14 11 102/4
" Richard French,	May 6	Sept. 18	19-3	8 14 102/4
" Thomas Terry,	May 26	Aug. 6	10-3	4 13 102/4
" Seth Smith,	May 17	Nov. 15	26-1	11 15 32/4
" Sam'l Lyman,	June 1	Nov. 10	23-2	10 9 7
" Edward Foster,	June 1	Nov. 15	24	10 16 0
" Ezra Belding,	June 1	Oct. 10	18-6	8 9 2
" Asahel Mauroas, [Maurice?]	June 2	Nov. 15	23-6	10 14 9
" Sam'l Eaton,	Apr. 13	Nov. 15	31	13 19 0
" Jacob Terry,	May 26	Nov. 15	24-6	11 3 9
" Sam'l Bartholemue,	Apr. 20	Nov. 15	30	13 10
" Jacob Tyler,	Apr. 20	Nov. 10	29-2	13 3 7
" Job Alford,	Apr. 20	Nov. 15	30	13 10

Names.	When Enlisted.	When Discharged.	Days and Weeks of Service.	Pay, etc
	(1757)			"Wages."
Priv. Daniel Messenger,	Apr. 20	Nov. 22	31	13 19
" David Bartholemue,	Apr. 20	Nov. 15	30	13 10
" Chester Wells,	May 29	Nov. 15	24-3	10 19 10 2/4
" John Francis,	May 29	Sept. 22	16-5	7 10 5 2/4
				[Died Sept. 22]
" Francis Hanmer,	May 30	Nov. 15	24-2	10 18 7
" Wm. Elsworth,	May 1	Nov. 15	28-3	12 15 10 2/4
" Moses Cole,	May 26	Dec. 17	29-3	13 4 10 2/4
" Peter Peas,	May 30	Nov. 15	24-2	10 18 7
" Zephaniah Hatch,	May 30	Nov. 15	24-2	10 18 7
" Joseph Akins,	June 6	Nov. 15	23-2	10 9 7
" Josiah Royce,	June 8	Nov. 15	23	10 7
" Joseph Blake,	June 6	Nov. 15	23-2	10 9 7
" Joseph Hayden,	June 8	Nov. 15	23	10 7
" Jeremiah Tryon,	June 7	Sept. 10	13-8	6 3 5 2/4
" Abijah Gellit, [Gillette]	June 8	Nov. 12	22-4	10 3 2
" Nathan Peas,	Apr. 13	Nov. 15	31	13 19 0
" Stephen Chandler,	May 26	Nov. 15	24-6	11 3 9
" Ezekeil Pryer,	June 6	Aug. 6	8-6	3 19 9
" John Rumvill,	May 26	Nov. 15	24-6	11 3 9
" Nehemiah Rumrill,	Apr. 4	Nov. 15	32-2	14 10 7
" Noah Parsons,	Apr. 13	Nov. 15	36	13 19 0
" James Clarke,	June 21	Nov. 15	21-1	9 10 3 2/4
" Daniel Ludington,	June 10	Nov. 2	20-6	9 7 9
" Earle Wright,	June 17	Nov. 15	21-5	9 15 5 2/4
" Thomas Dibble,	May 26	Aug. 20	12-3	5 11 10 2/4
				[Died Aug. 20]
" Sam'l Wesson,	Apr. 20	Never joyned	4	1 16 0
" Wm. Tilly,	June 20	Never joyned	4	1 16 0
				£1101 02 11 1/4

(Endorsed) "Hartford, SS., January 15th, 1759.

"Major Josiah Griswold personally appeared & made oath the several entries & charges made in this Pay Roll are all justly and truly made.

Before me, John Chester, Ass."

"N. B.—The Major testifies y<sup>t</sup> Eben<sup>r</sup> Spencer listed 5 April, but by mistake is entered 5 June, makes an error of 2 months, 5 days, comes to to 78/3, which is drawn for March 15, 1759."

"Major Josiah Griswold's Pay Roll, 1758, Copy<sup>d</sup> p<sup>r</sup> J. C. No. 3."

"Chester Wells, Private  
Jno. Francis, died Do.  
Nath<sup>l</sup> Terry, Corp<sup>l</sup>.  
Benj<sup>n</sup> (?) Hale."

"A Muster Role of Capt. Eliphalet Whittelsey's Company, Anno Dom., 1758."

Time of Inlistment.	Men's Names.	Dead and Cap- tivated.	Deserted and never Joyned.	Dischar- ged.	Weeks and Days in Service.
(1758)					
March 27	Capt. Elip't Whittelsey,			Nov. 15	33-3
March 27	Lieut. David Hubbard,			Nov. 10	32-5
March 27	Lieut. Oliver Pomrey,			Nov. 16	33-4
March 27	Ens'n Josiah Wright,			Nov. 15	33-3
Apl 6	Sarg't Sam'l Gridley,			Nov. 15	32
Apl 1	Sarg't Stephen White,			Sept. 30	26-1
Apl 6	Sarg't Sam'l Smith,	Sept. 13			23
Apl 10	Sarg't Benjamin Winchil,			Nov. 15	31-3
Apl 3	(Clark) Ashbil Hooker,			Nov. 15	32-3
Apl 6	Dr'm Noadiah Hart,		Never Joyn'd		4
May 29	Dr'm Abil Andrus,			Nov. 15	24-3
Apl 10	Corp'l William Pott,			Nov. 15	31-3
Apl 3	Corp'l Gideon Post,			Nov. 15	32-3
Apl 6	Corp'l Stephen Riley,			Nov. 15	32
Apl 14	Corp'l Sam'l Colton,			Nov. 15	32-6
Apl 10	Private Camp Addams,			Nov.* 15	31-3
Apl 18	" Sam'l Andrus,			Sept. 29	23-4
May 13	" Charles Abro,			Nov. 15	26-5
June 9	" Joseph Bates,			Nov. 15	22-6
May 8	" William Barton,			Sept. 29	20-5
Apl 5	" William Blinn,	Aug. 22			20
Apl 13	" David Blinn,			Nov. 15	31
Apl 10	" Deliverance Blinn,	Sept. 24			25
June 4	" Ebenezer Blinn,			Nov. 15	23-4
May 4	" John Boardman,			Oct. 21	24-3
Apl 3	" Daniel Brewer,			Nov. 3	30-5
June 9	" Timothy Brown,			Nov. 15	22-6
Apl 3	" Daniel Brewer Ju'r,			Nov. 15	32-3
June 13	" Noadiah Bronson,			Nov. 15	22-2
May 2	" Edward Bulkly,			Nov. 15	28-2
Apl 17	" Eliphalet Case,	Oct. 15			26
May 31	" Joseph Chandler,			Nov. 15	24-1
Apl 6	" Oliver Chauncey,			Oct. 31	29-6
Apl 8	" John Church Ju'r,			Dec. 7	34-6
Apl 13	" Jonathan Collins,			Nov. 7	29-6
Apl 13	" David Collins,			Nov. 7	29-6
June 15	" Moses Dix,			Nov. 15	22
May 4	" Francis Deming,			Nov. 15	28
Apl 3	" Nath'l Dewey,	Heirs,dd		Nov. 15	32-3
Apl 7	" Mathew Dunham,			Oct. (torn off.)	
(Some 12 or 13 names are missing here, the sheet in folding, had been broken into 10 sections, one of which (probably dropped out) is lost.					
S. W. ADAMS.)					
June 15	" Elisha Latimor,			Nov. 15	22
Apl 3	" John Lord,			Nov. 15	32-3
Apl 7	" Jonathan Loveland,			Nov. 15	31-6
Apl 2	" Andrew Lusk,			Nov. 15	32-4
June 16	" Lot Loveland,				4
June 15	" Joseph Mark,	Sept. 5	Desert'd		11-6
May 3	" Joseph Miller,			Nov. 15	28-1
Apl 7	" James Murphy,			Nov. 18	32-2
Apl 10	" Thos. Magit, [Mygatt?]			Nov. 15	31-3
Apl 20	" Ambo, Negro,			Nov. 7	28-6
Apl 11	" Dando, Negro, (Tano?)	Aug. 12			17-5

Time of Enlistment.	Men's Names.	Dead and Cap- tivated.	Deserted and Never Joined.	Dischar- ged.	Weeks and Days in Service.
(1758)					
Apl 21	" Daniel Neepash, (Ind)			Nov. 15	29-6
May 31	" Elnathan North,			Nov. 15	24-1
Apl 3	" Jaazaniah Post,			Nov. 15	32-3
Apl 14	" John Riley,			Nov. 15	30-6
Apl 7	" Jacob Riley,			Nov. 15	31-6
Apl 14	" Jehiel Robbins,			Nov. 15	30-6
May 13	" Jo. Robbins,			Nov. 15	26-5
June 9	" James Rockwill			Nov. 15	22-6
May 29	" Job Root,			July 6	5-4
May 29	" Solman Swag,			Nov. 15	24-3
Apl 3	" Ellhu Smith,			Nov. 8	31-3
June 9	" John Smith,		Desert'd		4
Apl 1	" Elisha Smith,			Nov. 15	32-5
Apl 6	" Moses Smith,			Oct. 15	27-4
Apl 29	" Manus Smith,			Oct. 4	22-5
May 29	" Elye Stoddard,			Nov. 15	24-3
May 29	" Isaac Shatten,		Desert'd		4
Apl 3	" Benjamin Sumner,			Sept. 29	25-5
Apl 4	" Sam'l Squire,			Nov. 15	32-2
Apl 6	" Timothy Taylor,			Nov. 15	32
May 30	" Stephen Taphow (Ind)			Nov. 15	24-2
June 13	" Joseph Tharp,	Sept. 13			13-2
May 29	" John Treet,	Sept. 26			17
Apl 15	" Elijah Tryon,			Nov. 15	30-5
Apl 13	" Eliad Tryon,			Nov. 15	31
Apl 6	" John Tooley,			Nov. 15	32
May 28	" Joseph Ware,			Nov. 15	25
June 13	" William Warrin,		Desert'd	Nov. 15	32-3
Apl 3	" Asael Webster,			Nov. 18	32-3
Apl 3	" Pelig Weldin,			Nov. 15	32-3
May 4	" Robert Welles Ju'r,			Nov. 15	28
Apl 13	" Ebenezer Welton, (Welden?),			Sept. 29	24-2
May 4	" Elye Whaples,			Nov. 18	28
May 29	" Elisha Whaples,			Nov. 15	24-3
May 29	" Jacob White,			Nov. 15	32-3
Apl 3	" Lemuel Whittlesy,			Nov. 15	32-3
Apl 13	" Samu'l Williams,			Oct. 4	28
May 6	" Justus Wolcote,			Nov. 15	27-5
Apl 24	" Timothy Wood,			Nov. 15	29-3
May 29	" Josiah Wright Ju'r,			Nov. 15	24-3
June 16	" John Young,			Nov. 15	21-6

\*Sept. crossed out.

"Hartford, Jan. 7 y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>, 1759.

"Then personally appeared Capt. Eliphalet Whittelsey, and made solemn oath y<sup>t</sup> all the several matters and things specified and contained in the within Muster Roll are justly and truly charged, according to the best of his knowledge and understanding.

"Sworn before J. Buckingham, *Just. Pea.*"



It may be of interest to some of our readers to know the route generally traveled by Connecticut soldiers from this part of the State, on their way to the front—a pretty well established route, over which they were constantly passing, singly, in little companies, or *en masse*, between their homes and their regimental camps, or rendezvous—during the whole period of the “old French” wars. The diary of a young Windsor man, in 1758, gives us (and is corroborated by other similar documents which we have seen) a pretty good idea of this line of travel between Hartford County and Lakes George and Champlain in New York Colony. This is his itinerary:

“1758. The 25th of May. Then I Listed into his magesties Servis. June the 8th, I set away from home to Hartford. The 9th Day I set from                      to Farmin town. The 10th Day I set away from there to Harwintown. The 11th Day I set away from there to Goshan. The 12th Day I set away from there to Cornwil. The 13th Day I set away from there to Canaan. The 14th Day I set away from there to Sheffield. The 15th Day I set away from there to the North side of Sheffield. The 16th Day I sset away from there to Spenstertowr. [Spencertown, N. Y.] or the Patterrone [Patroon’s] Land &c. June the 17th Day I set away from Spenstertown to Canterhook [Kinderhook, N. Y.]. The 18th Day I set away from there to Grenebush. And there we jined the Ridgment; we sta<sup>d</sup> til the 26th Day, then we set away from there to Half-Moon. The 27th Day we set away from there to Stilwater. The 28th Day we set away from there to Siratoga. The 29th Day we set away from there to Fort Edward. The 30th Day we set away from there to Lake George,—&c.”

*In the Campaign of 1759*, Gen. Lyman’s Connecticut forces were 3,600 men. Its object was the conquest of Canada and expeditions were planned against Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Niagara and Quebec. The Connecticut men in 1759, were mainly in the movements against Ticonderoga and Crown Point. Among the Wethersfield officers were: Capt. WHITTELSEY, Lieut. JOSIAH GOODRICH and ENS. ROGER RILEY (Stepney); all in the First regiment. The general headquarters were at Fort Edwards. Several Wethersfield men were buried there in June, 1759; among them NATH. KIRKHAM and SAM. WRIGHT, both of Newington. This campaign was the most prosperous one, for the English, in the long contest known as the French and Indian War. Niagara, Ticonderoga, Crown Point and Quebec were won; though at the sacrifice of the life of the gallant and distinguished Gen. Wolfe.

"A Muster Role of the 5 Company in Gen<sup>l</sup> Lyman's Reg<sup>nt</sup>, Com-  
manded by Capt. E. Whittelsey, 1759.

Time of Enlistment.	Men's Names.	Dead and Cap- tivated.	Discharged.	Weeks and Days in Service.
(1759)				
March 22	Capt. Eliphalet Whittelsey,		Dec. 15	38-3
March 22	Lt. David Hubbard,		Aug. 30	23-1
March 22	Lt. Josiah Goodrich,		Dec. 15	38-3
March 22	Ens'n Stephen Winchel,		Aug. 30	23-1
Aug. 31	Lt. Josiah Smith,		Dec. 15	15-2
Aug. 31	Ens'n Jonathan Pinney,		Nov. 22	12
March 29	Serg't Benj. Winchel,		Dec. 15	37-3
March 29	Serg't Ashbel Hooker,		Dec. 15	37-3
March 22	Serg't Samuel Wright,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 30	Serg't Caleb Goodrich,		Dec. 15	37-2
March 28	Clerk Thos. Clark,		Dec. 15	37-4
Apl 1	Capt. Stephen Riley,		Dec. 15	37
March 28	Corp'l Joseph Fox,		Dec. 12	37-1
Apl 1	Corp'l Jonathan Russ,		Dec. 15	37
March 29	Corp'l Daniel Elderkin,		Dec. 15	37-3
March 28	Drum'r Abel Andrus,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Drum'r James Keeney,	July 18		16-1
Apl 1	Samuel Andruss,		Dec. 15	37
Apl 8	Miles Andruss,		Dec. 15	36
Apl 16	William Andruss,		Dec. 15	34-6
March 28	Elisha Andruss,		Dec. 15	37-4
Apl 1	John Belding,		Nov. 21	33-4
March 30	Robbert Barret,		Dec. 15	37-2
March 31	Abel Bronson,		Nov. 21	33-5
March 29	Moses Barnes,		Dec. 18	37-6
March 30	Elisha Belding,		Dec. 10	36-4
Apl 1	Hez'h Bronson,		Nov. 21	33-4
Apl 15	David Blinn,		Dec. 15	35
Apl 15	Hezekiah Blinn,		Dec. 15	35
March 28	Timothy Brooks,		Dec. 18	38
March 28	John Brewer,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Dan. Brewer,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Thos. Brewer,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Caleb Benjamin,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	William Brown,	Nov. 19		33-6
March 28	James Clark,		Dec. 15	37-4
Apl 9	Jonathan Collins,		Nov. 26	33-1
March 28	John Case,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Matthew Cadwell,		Dec. 24	38-6
March 28	Simeon Couch,	Oct. 13		28-4
March 29	Moses Dickinson,		Dec. 15	37-3
March 28	Nath'l Duey,		Dec. 15	37-4
Apl 14	Elezier Fox,		Dec. 12	34-5
March 28	James Gosslee,		Dec. 15	37-4
Apl 16	John Gosslee,		Nov. 8	29-4
March 29	Isaac Goodale,		Dec. 15	37-3
March 29	Thos. Holister,		Dec. 15	37-3
March 29	John Holister,		Dec. 15	37-3
Apl 15	John Holmes,		Dec. 15	35
March 28	Abraham Hills,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 29	Thos. Hunte,		Nov. 21	34
Apl 10	Ebenezer Kilby,		Nov. 26	33
Apl 17	Thos. Kilby,		Dec. 15	34-5
March 28	Joseph Keeney,		Dec. 15	37-4
Apl 2	Robbert Linsea,		Dec. 15	36-6

Time of Inlistment.	Men's Names.	Dead and Cap- tivated.	Discharged	Weeks and Days in Service.
(1759)				
March 28	Bennoni Lomis,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Thos. Loveland,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Jonathan Loveland,		Jn'y 2, 1760	40-1
March 28	Elezier Loveland,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 29	Lot Loveland,		Oct. 28	30-4
March 28	Samuel Lamb,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Samuel Lyman,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Thos. Mygate,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Joseph Marvin,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Daniel McCloud,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 29	Edward Potter.		Dec. 15	37-3
Apl 14	Jehiel Robbins,		Dec. 15	35-1
Apl 5	Charles Riley,		Dec. 15	36-3
Apl 26	Elisha Riley,		Dec. 15	33-3
March 28	Jonathan Stoddard,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 29	Eli Stoddard,		Dec. 15	37-3
March 28	Marius Smith,		Dec. 10	36-6
Apl 2	Abraham Shipman,		Dec. 15	36-6
March 28	Moses Scott,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	John Stevens,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Elisha Smith,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	David Sparks,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Joseph Simons,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Isaac Stratton,		Oct. 28	30-5
March 28	Thos. Stevens,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 29	Benjamin Smith,		Oct. 29	30-5
Apl 1	John Stratton,		Dec. 15	37
March 28	Sam'll Smith,		Oct. 29	30-6
March 28	Joseph Smith,		Dec. 1	35-4
Apl 16	John Smith,		Dec. 15	34-6
March 28	Benjamin Tucker,		Dec. 15	37-4
Apl 14	Benajer Taylor,		Oct. 29	28-3
Apl 1	John Whittelsey,		Dec. 15	37
March 28	Josiah Wright,		Dec. 15	37-4
Apl 1	Justus Woolcutt,		Dec. 15	37
Apl 1	Eli Whapples,		Dec. 15	37
Apl 2	William Wells,		Dec. 15	36-6
March 31	Caleb Woolcutt,		Nov. 21	33-5
Apl 2	Joseph Watson,		Dec. 15	36-6
Apl 1	Sam'll Williams,		Nov. 26	34-2
March 28	Asahel Welster,		Dec. 24	38-6
March 28	David Wickham,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Elihu Wright,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Peleg Weldon,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 28	Joseph Wear,		Dec. 12	37-1
March 28	John Williams,		Dec. 15	37-4
March 30	John Wright,		Dec. 15	37-2
Apl 30	James Wright,		Dec. 18	33-2
March 29	Daniel Neepach, (Indian)		Dec. 10	36-5
March 29	Jo. Robbins,	Dec. 14		37-2
Apl 13	David Way,		Dec. 10	34-4

(Endorsed)

"Hartford, 7 Feby., 1760.

"Capt. Eliphalet Whittelsey, of the within Company, hereby Certifies that, in the same Company there was seven men who served as Serjents, one as Corporal, one as Drummer, and Sixty-nine as Privates, in a former Companie.

Elip. Whittelsey, Capt."

Extra pay was allowed to those who had previously served in the army.

"Hartford, SS., 7 Feb., 1760.

"Capt. Eliph<sup>t</sup> Whittelsey, above mentioned made solemn oath that the above Certificate is true & that the various entry, and charges made in y<sup>e</sup> within Pay Role made and done, are true & just,

*Coram* John Ledyard, *Jus. Pacis.*"

*The Campaign of 1760*, commenced as far as Connecticut took part, when, at its March session, the General Assembly voted to raise 5,000 men to co-operate in the reduction of "Montreal and all other posts belonging to the French in those parts," to be formed into four regiments, of twelve companies each. Phineas Lyman was appointed Major General of these forces, and Colonel of the First Regiment, Nathan Whiting of the second, David Wooster of the third, and Eleazer Fitch of the fourth. The great result of this campaign was the capture, on the 8th of September, by the New England forces under General Amherst, of the City of Montreal, thus completing the conquest of Canada.

We should be glad to have the names of those from Wethersfield proper, and from Stepney parish, who served in this campaign, but only the names of a Lieut. GOODRICH and an Ensign RILEY reward our search. The Newington soldiers fare better, owing to the partial preservation of the muster rolls of 5th Co. (New.) of the 1st Reg't., Col. Phineas Lyman. ELIPHALET WHITTLESEY, of Newington was appointed Captain of this 5th Co., but its pay-roll is made out by Capt. John Sumner, originally First Lieutenant of the 7th Co. It is probable that Capt. Whittlesey may have been unable to serve, with his company, or may have been invalided before the end of the campaign. The roll is as follows:



*Pay Roll of Capt. John Sumner's Company in Gen. Lyman's Regiment, 1760.*

	<i>Enlisted.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>
John Sumner, Capt.	March 28,	Nov. 28.
Seth King, 1st. Lieut.,	" 28,	Aug. 27.
Stephen Winchell, 2d.,	" 28,	Sept. 4. (Died.)
David Andrews, Lieut.	Sept. 5,	Nov. 28.
Amos Thomson, "	" 18,	" 26.
Ashbel Hooker, Ensn.	March 28,	Sept. 6. (Died.)
Ephraim Wells, "	Oct. 11,	Nov. 29.
Daniel Elderkin, Serg't.	March 24,	Sept. 4.
Moses Dickerson, "	" 24,	Nov. 19.
Reuben Cook, "	" 24,	" 25.
Amos Mitchel, "	April 2,	" 16.
Thomas North, Serg't.	Apr. 6,	Sept. 4.
(About 20 names are missing here.)		
Jonathan Spencer,	Apr. 4,	Nov. 20.
Joshua Strong,	March 28,	" 23.
Jeremiah Arnold,	" 29,	(Deserted)
Abijah Bacon,	May 12,	Nov. 27.
Roger Maggott, Drummer,	March 27,	Sept. 4.
Noadiah Brunson, Drummer,	" 20,	Nov. 28.
Zachariah Bacon, do.	" 28,	" 28.
William Barton,	" 26,	" 28.
David Coles,	" 27,	Oct. 2. (Died)
Daniel Coles,	Apr. 2,	(Never joined)
Isaac Chamberlin,	March 29,	Sept. 4, (Died)
Math. Denham,	" 27,	Oct. 26, (Died)

These are all the names given in full. The following surnames also appear, to-wit: Hubbard, Williams, Chelsey, Lusk, Persons, Squire, Stoddard, Torey, Roullston, Wright, Wolf, Waters, Barrett, Collins, Hollister, Stevens, Thrall.

Capt. JOHN PATTERSON, of Stanley Quarter, commanded the fourth company of the same regiment, but no roll of his company is known to exist. Gen. Lyman's regiment was at Albany, Nov. 13, 1760, as appears by his receipt for money to pay his troops, given there on that date.

*Campaign of 1761.* In March of this year, a move was made to complete the conquest of Canada. Connecticut sent two regiments (2,300 men in all) under Gen. Lyman, who was also Colonel of the First Regiment, and Nathan Whiting of Hartford, was Colonel of the second. Among the officers of this latter regiment were two Wethersfield men, viz., Lieut. FRANCIS HOLLISTER, and Ensign JONATHAN ROBBINS, Jr. JOHN PATTERSON, of Newington, was appointed captain of the 4th Company in the First Regiment. A bounty of £11 was offered to every non-commissioned officer and private who had served in the previous campaign, who should enlist in this, and £7

to others. Capt. Patterson (*State Archives, War IX, Doc. 203*), certified that 89 of his company were old soldiers, and only four new levies. No roll of this company is known to exist, but it was doubtless raised largely from the towns of Wethersfield and Farmington; and so many of its members being well seasoned soldiers, their names must be on the rolls previously given.

No battles were fought in this campaign, but the time was profitably spent in repairing and strengthening the numerous posts gained from the French, in the previous years—a kind of military service in which the provincial troops were adepts, and much employed.

*The Campaign of 1762*, proved to be the final one of the long contest known as the "Old French War." At its commencement, England found herself involved in war with the principal Continental Powers, as well as with the greatest part of the maritime power of Europe, and consequently her demands upon her colonies for assistance were in nowise abated. Early in the war, war was declared against Spain, and a large fleet, with an army of 16,000 troops was sent to attempt the reduction of Havana and the Spanish West Indies. To this undertaking, the Colonies constituted 2300 picked men under their own officers. Connecticut in addition to the 1300 men already serving in the Canadas, sent 1000 men, under Generals Lyman and Putnam, to this Southern expedition, which despite the storms and discomforts of a tropical climate, and the ravages of the pestilence, successfully accomplished its work and returned in the Autumn, so decimated in numbers as to be a mere handful of those who had courageously and hopelessly gone forth in the Spring.

In this "Havana Expedition," of 1762, were Lieutenants FRANCIS HOLLISTER and SAMUEL WRIGHT, of Capt. John Patterson's (4th) Company. Hollister was first attached to the 4th Company, but was transferred to the 5th (which lost 40 men out of a total of 90. Wright, at first an ensign of the 4th Company, was promoted to a lieutenancy; his company lost 37 men out of a total of 91.

Fortunately, the muster roll of the 4th Company, above referred to, has been preserved, and from it we learn the names of those brave sons of Wethersfield who faced the dangers and the horrors of the "Havana Expedition" of 1762.

This campaign was followed by negotiations for peace, and the Treaty of Paris was signed February 10th, 1713, by which France surrendered her North American possessions east of the Mississippi, and Spain ceded Florida, St. Augustine and Pensacola, while Great Britain gave back to Spain the West Indies.

*Pay Roll of Capt. John Patterson's Co. at Havana, in 1762.*

## OFFICERS.

	<i>Enlisted.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>
John Patterson, Capt.	March 15,	Sept. 5, (Died)
Roger Eno, Capt.	Sept. 6,	Dec. 5.
David Andrus, Lieut,	March 15,	Nov. 30, (Died)
Francis Hollister, Lieut,	" 15,	Sept 14.
Samuel Wright, Lieut,	Sept. 15,	Dec. 5.
Peter Belknap, Ensign,	" 15,	" 5.
Peter Curtis, Sergt.	March 15,	" 5.
Thomas Fox, "	" 15,	Nov. 17, (Died)
Samuel Bard, "	" 15,	Sept. 16, (Died)
Elihu Wright, "	" 15,	Dec. 5.
Epaphres Andrus, Sergt.,	" 15,	Dec. 5.
Solomon Woodruff, Corp.,	" 15,	Nov. 17, (Died)
John Whitcomb, "	" 16,	Dec. 5.
Samuel Bidwell, "	" 15,	" 5.
Abraham Cadwell, "	" 16,	Nov. 16, (Died)
Andrew Lusk, Drummer,	" 15,	Dec. 5.
Nathan Redfield, "	" 15,	Nov. 4, (Died)

## PRIVATEs.

William Lusk,	March 15,	Dec. 5.
David Wilcocks,	" 17,	Oct. 1, (Died)
Paul Hail, (Hale)	" 16,	Dec. 5.
David Deming,	" 15,	" 5.
Ebenezer Burlingson,	" 17,	Nov. 23, (Died)
Fearnot Burlingson,	" 17,	Dec. 5.
John Lusk,	" 16,	" 5.
Amos Collens,	" 15,	Oct. 25, (Died).
Asa Porter,	" 16,	Dec. 5.
Jonathan Arnold,	" 15,	" 5.
Michael Morrils,	" 15,	Sept. 5, (Died)
John Norton,	" 15,	Nov. 8, (Died)
John Linsey,	" 15,	Dec. 5.
John Collens,	" 17,	Nov. 3, (Died)
David Pike,	" 17,	Sept. 12, (Died)
Nathl. North,	" 17,	Sept. 7, (Died)
John Miller,	" 17,	Oct. 4, (Died)
David Chapens,	" 17,	Sept. 15, (Died)
Zebulon Shephard,	" 17,	" 16, (Died)
John Woodruff,	" 16,	Nov. 19, (Died)
Samuel Landers,	" 16,	Dec. 5.
Denison Andrus,	" 18,	Sept. 19, (Died)
Iehabod Hill,	" 18,	Dec. 5.
John Lord,	" 15,	" 5.
John Bates,	" 15,	" 5.
John Doyl,	" 16,	" 5.
Jeremiah Raney,	" 15,	Oct. 23, (Died)
Joseph Kingman,	" 20,	Dec. 5.

John Benjamin,	"	15,	"	5.
Abraham Fox,	"	17,	"	5.
John Pandal,	"	20,	Nov. 17,	(Died)
Elisha Webster,	"	20,	Dec.	5.
Joseph Watson,	"	20,	"	5.
Benjamin Goffe,	"	20,	"	5.
Samuel Gains,	"	15,	Nov. 4,	(Died)
Ozias Nichols,	"	17,	Nov. 2,	(Died)
Moses Evans,	"	15,	Dec.	5.
Timothy Brooks,	"	15,	Sept. 18,	(Died)
Moses Scott,	"	15,	Oct. 11,	(Died)
Joseph Fox,	"	15,	Dec.	5.
Abner Fuller,	"	15,	"	5.
Jonathan Price,	"	15,	Dec. 13,	(Died)
William Hollister,	"	15,	Sept. 15,	(Died)
Thomas Raymont,	"	15,	Dec.	5.
Joseph Ware,	"	15,	Oct. 3,	(Died)
Benoni Loomis,	"	15,	Dec. 7,	(Died)
Allyn Benjamin,	"	15,	Oct. 10,	(Died)
Hezekiah Wright,	"	15,	Dec.	5.
John Searls,	"	19,	"	5.
John Fitch,	"	19,	Nov. 19,	(Died)
Samll. Taylor,	"	15,	Dec.	5.
John Mausley,	"	15,	Sept. 23,	(Died)
London, (Negro,)	"	15,	Dec.	5.
Lemuel Whittlesey,	"	15,	"	5.
James Lusk,	"	15,	Oct. 28,	(Died)
Joseph Blanchard,	"	15,	Nov. 19,	(Died)
John Lattemer,	"	17,	Dec.	5.
Levi Redfield,	"	17,	"	5.
Nathl. Willcocks,	"	17,	Nov. 17,	(Died)
Nathan Stevens,	"	17,	Dec.	5.
Ashbel Lee,	"	17,	"	5.
Roger Tyler,	"	15,	"	5.
Medad Porter,	"	15,	"	5.
Abner Fuller,	"	15,	"	5.
Lemuel Whitman,	"	15,	Nov. 5,	(Died)
Gideon Smith,	"	15,	" 30,	(Died)

Lieutenants JOSIAH SMITH, HEZEKIAH SMITH, and NEHEMIAH DICKINSON (tho' I am somewhat uncertain as to his being from Wethersfield), and Ensign ELISHA BLINN, did not accompany the Havana Expedition, but were in service in the northern campaign, mostly at Crown Point.

One of the most efficient men in the Colony during the French and Indian War, was Col. JOHN CHESTER, Sen., the father of the Capt. John Chester, who commanded the Wethersfield Company at Bunker Hill. He was an assistant at the General Court during the whole war; and also one of the three members of the Committee of the Pay Table of the Army. And, at the same time, he was the head and



front of public enterprise in Wethersfield, being especially busy with the construction of the brick meeting house there—an edifice in use at the present day, and one of the finest church structures in any New England village.

How many French prisoners were quartered in Wethersfield, we can not say. In 1759, there were some at Newington, in charge of Selectman Martin Kellogg and Nathaniel Boardman; and, in 1762, the Town built a house “near Howard’s pond, for the use of the French family.”

[NOTE.—When the old Seymour house in Hartford was sold some fifteen years ago, among its contents, and sold at auction, were a number of boxes and trunks, some of which came into the possession of the late Judge SHERMAN W. ADAMS, and were found to contain documents of considerable historical value; among them over 200 original muster and pay rolls of Connecticut men serving in the French and Indian Wars, 1755-1761. These eventually came into the possession of the Connecticut State Library, and are being published in the *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*—beginning in Vol. IX of that series—published 1903. Our readers will do well to consult these volumes as they are published by the Society.—H. R. S.]

## CHAPTER XI.

*Wethersfield's Share in the American Revolution—Her Share in the Continental Army and Navy; and in Privateering—Names and Services of Wethersfield Men and Officers, in the Service by Land and Sea.*

[BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ., ENLARGED BY HENRY R. STILES.]

HER ANTI-STAMP ACT DEMONSTRATION—1765. [Wethersfield's interest in the political events which finally culminated in the War of the Revolution, was very pronounced as early as 1765, when the Sons of Liberty, from the eastern towns in the Colony joined with those in Wethersfield in a bold demonstration in defiance of the obnoxious Stamp Act. Mr. Jared Ingersoll, of New Haven, the Stamp-Master newly appointed by the Crown, met with such determined and outspoken opposition to the discharge of his duties, that his personal safety was endangered. This was first demonstrated at New Haven and in New London and Windham counties; and, evading the popular demand for his resignation, he started on horseback for Hartford where the General Assembly was about to meet, intending to take the advice of that body and hoping that its action in the matter might better safeguard him in the discharge of his obnoxious duties. For a part of the way, at least, he was accompanied by Governor Fitch, to protect him from insult. On the road they were met by two mounted men, with peeled clubs in their hands, who announced themselves as the *avant couriers* of a larger company who were on their way to meet them. When directed by the Governor to return and tell their associates to disperse, they flatly refused, saying that it was "the peoples' cause," and they would take no order from any one concerning it.

When Ingersoll arrived within a few miles of Wethersfield he was met by a party of four or five mounted men; about a half-mile further on he was met by a second squad of men; no violence was offered him; and in ominous silence the Stamp-Master and his unwelcome escort rode on. Soon they encountered a body of some five hundred farmers and freeholders, all mounted and armed with long and heavy sticks, from which the bark had been peeled, thus giving them a resemblance to the batons, or staves of office at that day carried by sheriffs and

constables. This formidable force, led by one Durkee, with two fully uniformed militia officers acting as aides, and heralded by the inspiring music of three trumpeters, rode two abreast; and with silent courtesy opened ranks to receive Mr. Ingersoll, then closing as silently around and behind him, held their way steadily onward in the direction he was going. What were the thoughts or fears of the Royal official thus derisively honored, may well be imagined; but he was cool-headed and the situation, unpleasant as it was, did not blunt his sense of the humorous. When some one of his unwelcome escort quizzically inquired of him, what he thought to find himself attended by such a retinue, Mr. Ingersoll—who chanced to be riding a white horse, quickly replied that he now “had a clearer idea than ever before, of that passage in the Revelations which describes *Death on a pale horse and all hell following*”!<sup>1</sup>

Soon they entered “the lower end of Wethersfield” and, arriving at the immense elm in front of the Colonel Chester mansion,<sup>2</sup> the procession halted, and, as with one accord, lifted their voices and demanded that the matter they were upon should be settled then and there. “All can not so well see and hear in a house,” they exclaimed, “we might as well *have the business done here.*” Without further loss of time, the Stamp-Master’s resignation was demanded. He refused, and attempted to parley, but they held him resolutely to their ultimatum, resignation, or ———. He then asked for time to reflect, and retired for that purpose to the upper room of a tavern near by;<sup>3</sup> but a committee of the people attended and kept him in sight. He succeeded, however, in putting off the inevitable for three hours, while he sent a messenger to Hartford to inform the Governor and Assembly of his predicament. At last the crowd lost patience—loud murmurings and threats were heard, and their leader, Durkee, waited upon him and bluntly told him that he could no longer keep the people off. The stalwart and enraged farmers filled the hallway, and began to mount the stairs. Ingersoll was a cool-headed, brave man, and the office which he had accepted and faithfully attempted to fulfil was, of itself, obnoxious to him. Indeed, as one of the agents of the Colony of Connecticut, representing its interests in London, he had nobly protested, both by voice and pen,

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<sup>1</sup> Humphreys’, *Life of Gen. Putnam*, p. 32.

<sup>2</sup> This notable tree was removed some 25 years ago—*S. W. A.*

<sup>3</sup> The tavern in which this renunciation was signed, stood a few rods north of the Col. Chester house, and was destroyed by fire within the memory of some now living. Some say, however, that it was in the tavern which stood on the east, or opposite side of the road.—*S. W. A.*

and had vainly argued with Lord Granville, the Prime Minister, and with the Secretary of the British Treasury, against the imposition upon the Colonies, of this Stamp Act, of which he was now the visible representative. Violence and death seemed imminent; he saw in the faces of those around him that even his death would not stay the rising tide of indignation. "The cause is not worth dying for," he said, with cool irony, and began to pen the following resignation:

"Wethersfield, Sept. 19, 1765. I do hereby promise that I will never receive any Stamp Paper which may arrive from Europe, in consequence of any Act lately passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, nor officiate in any manner as Stamp-Master, or Distributor of Stamps within the Colony of Connecticut, either directly or indirectly.

"And I do hereby notify all the Inhabitants of this His Majesty's Colony of Connecticut, (notwithstanding the said Office or Trust has been committed to me) not to apply to me, ever hereafter, for any such Stamped Papers, hereby declaring that I do resign said Office, and execute these Presents of my own free will and accord, without any Equivocation, or mental Reservation

"In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand,

"J. INGERSOLL."

This done, the crowd next demanded that he should read it to them, which he did; and that he should swear to it, which latter request he refused to comply with. However, having gained their main object, they compromised on the condition that he should shout three times, the words "Liberty and Property." This he did with such well affected earnestness that they "gave him three Huzzas." Mr. Ingersoll then went to a tavern and dined with several of the company. After dinner, the company told Mr. Ingersoll, as he was bound to Hartford, they would escort him there, which they did to the number of "almost five Hundred persons on Horseback."<sup>1</sup> Arrived there, Durkee marshalled his riders four abreast and, with a blare of trumpets, formed them in a circle around the Court House in which the General Assembly were in session. There Ingersoll was made to again read his resignation, which was greeted with cheers, trumpeting and cries of "Liberty and Property"—then the gallant "Sons of Liberty" dispersed to their homes. But, this demonstration and the subsequent determined attitude of Gen. Putnam in his memorable interview with Governor Fitch, settled the fate of the Stamp Act in Connecticut, if not in the Colonies. It was repealed in March, 1766, but with such sullenness and evidences of

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<sup>1</sup> *Conn. Courant*, under date of 23 Sept., 1765.



duplicity of intentions on the part of the British Ministry, as to still further increase the exasperation of the Colonies.

*Wethersfield Merchants Oppose the Importation of British Goods.*—1768. It was not long before the people of Wethersfield had an opportunity to show again their indomitable spirit of opposition to the encroachments of British tyranny. In April, 1768, the merchants of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York had entered into a solemn compact to unite in the stopping of any importation of goods from Great Britain, until the oppressive acts of the Home Ministry, so subversive of their rights as British subjects, should be repealed. The Connecticut merchants kept this agreement with much more fidelity than those of New York; and this led to a general convention of delegates from all the towns of the Connecticut Colony, "to take into consideration the perilous condition of the country, to provide for the growth and spread of home manufactures, and to devise more thorough means for carrying out to the letter, the non-importation agreement." The actions of the towns as manifested in their several town meetings on this proposal, were most prompt, decisive and outspoken.

[Wethersfield had been as strenuous in its observance of this non-importation agreement, as any of her sister towns; but in December, 1769, public attention was called to an infringement of its provisions by one of her own citizens, which could not be overlooked. One Peter Verstelle, originally from Boston, and who, in 1761, had been admitted as an inhabitant, and set up as a merchant in Wethersfield,<sup>1</sup> brought into the town a stock of goods, which excited the suspicions of the Town's Committee of Inspection as being contrary to the general non-importation compact. The case is thus stated in the *Connecticut Courant*:

"Hartford, January 1st, 1770. On Thursday, the 21st of December last, was brought into Wethersfield, a quantity of English goods from Providence, imported in the *Tristam*, Capt. Stand, which being known, the principal persons in the town, as well traders as others, assembled and unanimously carried into effect several resolutions against every attempt of this kind, and appointed a Committee to examine fully into the affair, and to take care said goods should not be disposed of until public satisfaction should be given, and then adjourned to the next day, when being assembled and joined by the gentlemen committee of Merchants from Hartford, Mr. Verstelle, the importer, was sent for, and on producing his invoice and letters, it was judged the said goods were imported contrary to the general agreement of the Mer-

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<sup>1</sup> See *Verstelle Genealogy*—Vol. II.

chants in America. Whereupon, he consented to deliver them up to be stored, according to the practice in the larger trading towns on the Continent, and delivered his invoice thereof to Elisha Williams, Esq., the Moderator of the meeting, as security against any embezzlement before the committee appointed to receive them, could be ready; on which the meeting, after the most spirited and unanimous resolutions against either importing, purchasing or using any goods imported contrary to said agreement, broke up with the utmost regularity and order; and, on the Tuesday following the said goods were delivered to the Committee, and by them carefully stored, to be kept until a repeal of the late Acts should take place."

It is worthy of remark, to the honor of the people who composed this meeting, that they were almost entirely the honest, industrious and substantial landholders, to whom the temptation of supplying their families at a cheap rate, when weighed against the liberty of their country, proved futile; and to prevent any attempts of this kind in the future, as well as to hand down to posterity their sentiments on this important subject, they passed in a full Town Meeting, the following vote, *News, con.*, viz:

"At a Town Meeting, held in Wethersfield, Dec. 25, 1769, by adjournment.

"*Voted*, that it is and ever has been the opinion of this Town that the late acts of Parliament, commonly called the American Revenue Acts, imposing certain duties on Paper, Glass, &c., are, in themselves, unconstitutional, offensive, and tending to that total subversion of the liberties of his Majesty's subjects in America—that the opposition made thereto thro'out the Continent has been noble, just, firm and deserving the highest applause thro' every age.

"That, in particular, the resolutions against importing goods of Merchandise from Great Britain, until said Acts are repealed, so genuinely and unanimously come into by the Merchants in America, and so universally approved of by the people, is worthy of the highest commendation, as being the most effectual method for obtaining relief—Do resolve to abide by the same, and as far as possible, prevent the least breach thereof by any of the inhabitants of this town, or others; nor will we purchase, or use and consume any goods imported contrary to said agreement, so universally come into.

"*And*, for the more effectual preventing any counteracting said resolutions, we do appoint Messieurs *Silas Deane, Ezekiel Williams, Elisha Williams, David Webb*, and *Elias Williams*, a Committee, directing them, with the utmost vigilance and care, to guard against,

and prevent any attempt to put in execution, so fatal and infamous a purpose as that of sacrificing the good of this Continent, and their posterity, to private gain and emolument; desiring them to correspond and consult with, as well as aid and assist the other Committees appointed in the neighboring towns and elsewhere for this purpose.”—*H. R. S.*]

At the beginning of the Revolutionary struggle, there were thirteen regiments in the Colony, and Wethersfield, with Glastonbury, Middletown and Kensington parish were included in the department of the Sixth Regiment. This contained eighteen companies, some of which, however, were *trainbands*, of half a company (32 men) each. One was commanded by Col. John Chester, Sen., who as the son of Major John Chester, and a descendant, also, of Governors Talcott and Welles, may be supposed to have inherited the military spirit so prominent in these three families. He died in 1771, but his patriotism and soldierly qualities were admirably perpetuated in his son, Capt. (afterwards Colonel) John.

*The Town Expresses its Sympathy with the Sufferers by the Boston Port Bill.*—But, the hostility of the people of Wethersfield, in common with those of other towns, extended to other arbitrary enactments of the British Government than the Stamp Act imposed upon tea. Especially was their righteous indignation excited by the Boston Port Bill, 1774, by which, practically, the harbor of Boston was sealed against shipping—because of the destruction of tea in that harbor, in the preceding December. Wethersfield sympathized most heartily with the distress which was thus forced upon the inhabitants of Boston—as did, also, the other towns in this and neighboring colonies.

Unwilling to wait upon the formal action of the General Assembly, which had passed resolutions favoring a general contribution, from the several towns of the Colony, to the relief of Boston—but had delayed taking action thereon until their next (October) session—the Wethersfield people held a meeting, at the brick meeting house, June 16th, 1774, at which Capt. Thomas Belden presided, and strong resolutions of sympathy were passed. These resolutions recited that the occasion of their meeting together, was “The extreme distress to which our Brethren at Boston are reduced by the merciless hand of Tyranny”; that “This Town do consider the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston to be now suffering for the common cause of American Liberty; and that we are bound, in common justice, as well as by the early ties of friendship between our ancestors \* \* \* \* to afford them all the assistance in our power; both by our advice and counsel, and by giving

them a part of the substance which God hath blessed us with, from time to time, as their necessities shall require." It was also resolved, "to the utmost of our power and influence" to encourage the proposed formation of a "Congress of the Colonies." And a committee, consisting of Sheriff Ezekiel Williams, Elisha Deming (both of *Wethersfield* village), Elias Williams, Capt. William Griswold (both of *Stepney* parish), Captains Martin Kellogg and Charles Churchill (both of *Newington* parish), and Solomon Dunham (of *Beckley's Quarter*), were appointed to receive contributions from the people and forward the same to Boston. And, what these Wethersfield men said, they did—as is evidenced by the following document:

"Whereas, the Honorable General Assembly of this Colony taking into Consideration the distressed Situation of the Town of Boston, did come into a Resolution to contribute to their Relief, but deferr'd putting the same into Execution, untill after their Session in October next—We, the Subscribers, apprehensive that to put forward a Contribution at this Time may greatly tend to relieve and encourage the Inhabitants of that Town, under their present unparallell'd Suffering in the General Cause of American Liberty, do engage to pay the Sums by Us subscribed, in the Manner following: (Viz.) One penny on the pound of our List for the present year, as set down against our Names; and such other sums as we shall set down. Each person subscribing to be holden for one penny on the pound; and for as much more as he shall see fit to subscribe; to be paid in Cash, in Wheat, Rye, & Indian Corn; to be transported to the said Town of Boston, and delivered to the Select Men, or Overseers of the Poor for said Town, to be disposed of as they shall judge best for the Benefit of said Town.

Wethersfield, June, 1774."



MEN'S NAMES.	List.	Amount of on ye list.	Sums Given Over 1 d.	For such as chuse the whole in Bus. of Wheat, or part.	For such as chuse ye whole in Bushels of Rye, or part.	For Such as chuse ye whole in Bushels of Ind. Corn or part.
x Silas Deane	208- 5	1d		£ 0-17-4		In <sup>d</sup> . Corn
x Joseph Webb	196-12-3	1d		9-16-4		
Amasa Adams	50- 8-0	-4-2				
Benj. Adams	42- 0-0	-3-6				
x Camp Adams	58-10-0					2½ Corn.
John Adams	38-15-	3-3				
Mary Ayrault	1- 5-0					
x Peter Ayrault	36-15-0					
x Nicholas Ayrault	73- 4-0			1 ½		
x Daniel Ayrault	68-17-6			1 ½ bu w		
Eben <sup>r</sup> Balch	34-17-0					
x William Beadle	73- 0-0	-12-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Jon <sup>th</sup> Beadle	29- 2-6	2-6				
David Beadle, Ju <sup>r</sup>	18- 0-0	[cash.				
Elisha Baxter	29-10-0					
x James Barret	66- 6-	5 5⁄7d				
x Eb <sup>r</sup> & John Belding	323- 0-0					13½
x Thomas Belding	217- 7-6	1- 0-0				
Ruth Belding	8- 5-0					
David Belding	68- 9-6				2 Bu <sup>s</sup>	
x Simon Belding	107-12-0	13-6	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Solomon Belding	72- 0-0	-6-				
Josiah Belding	56-18-6	-6-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
John Benton	36- 0-0				1 ¼	
x Gershom Blinn	56-13-6					2½
Sam <sup>l</sup> Blinn	31- 8-0				1 bush.	
x Solo., W <sup>m</sup> & Hosea Blinn	75- 5-6				2½	
Charles Boardman	74- 4-6	- 6-2				
Levi Boardman	96- 7-0	8s/6d				
Sam <sup>l</sup> Boardman	167- 0-6	18s/				
x Tho <sup>s</sup> . & Mich <sup>l</sup> Brigden	70- 0-4	- 6-8	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Leonard Boardman	30- 2-0					
Seth Boardman	18- 0-0					
Sam <sup>l</sup> Brace	35- 0-0					
Ed <sup>d</sup> Brown	18- 0-0					
Josiah Buck & Sons	230-15-	1- 2-				
x Titus Buck	35-10-	3-7 ½	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Isaac Buck	27-10-					
x Samuel Buck	30-15-	2- 8 ½	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
x Jesse Buck	19-10-	1- 8	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
John Bulkley	23-10-	2- 6-				
Benj. Bulkley	35-15-	- 4-				
Charles Bulkley	50-16-	- 6-				2½ Corne.
John Bulkley, Ju <sup>r</sup>	18- 0-6	- 1-6				
x Zech <sup>r</sup> Bunce, Ju <sup>r</sup>	49-13-	- 4-6				
Jonth. Bunce	18-13-9	- 2-				

MEN'S NAMES.	List.	Amount of 1d on ye list.	Sums given over 1 d.	For such as chuse the whole in Bus. of Wheat or part.	For such as chuse ye whole in Bushels of Rye or part.	For such as chuse ye whole in Bushels of Ind. Corn or part.
Tho. Bunce	22-	2- 6				
Zech <sup>r</sup> Bunce	1-15-					
Sam <sup>l</sup> Butler	28-13-6					
Hez. Butler & Sons	193- 0-0	18- 1		2, $\frac{1}{2}$		
W <sup>m</sup> Butler & Sons	144- 5-0	12-				
Joseph Butler	51- 8-0					2 $\frac{1}{2}$ bu.
Amos Bull	43-18-					
Jon <sup>th</sup> Bull & Elijah Porter	5- 8-0					
x Nath <sup>l</sup> Burnham	24-16-6	3- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	p <sup>a</sup> E. W.			
x Peter Burnham	61-07-0	-7-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Joseph Brooks	20- 0-0					
Jon <sup>th</sup> Carter	2- 3-0					
Mary Carter	4-16-					
Benj. Catling	18-	-2-				
x John Chester's Heirs	491-10-	{ 2-1-8				
Leonard Chester	7-12-					
Samuel Cole	18-					
x Zaddock Coleman	29-	-3-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
x Peleg Coleman	21-15-	-2- 6	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Comfort Coleman	44-	-3- 8	p <sup>d</sup> in Corn			
x Lydia Crane	58- 9-	-3- 6	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Rebecca Crane	5-16-					
x Abra <sup>m</sup> Crane	53-10-6					
Hez. Crane	44-	-5-				Ind. Corn
John Crane	33-	-3-				4 bu.
Josiah Curtiss & Son	113- 4-					5 bushel.
x Sam <sup>l</sup> Curtiss	46- 0-6	-6-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Sam <sup>l</sup> Curtiss, Ju <sup>r</sup>	29-15-					
Dan <sup>l</sup> Curtiss	18-					
Tho <sup>s</sup> . Clark	18-					
Andrew Combs	18-					
Joseph Combs	18-					
Josiah Combs	18-					
James Curtiss	47- 4-					[D <sup>o</sup> 2 bus
x Barnabas Dean	94-				5 Bush <sup>l</sup>	
Richard Dean	18-					
William Deming	45- 2-6	-4-				
James Deming	18-					
x Willi. Deming, Ju <sup>r</sup>	21-	1-6	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Elizur Deming	21-					
Josiah Deming	66-	-6-				
Aaron Deming	18-					
Dan <sup>l</sup> Deming	20-					
Gid. & Pet <sup>r</sup> Deming	57-	-5-				
Tim <sup>o</sup> . Deming	83- 6-					Ind. Corn
Eli Deming	29-					3 $\frac{1}{2}$ bu <sup>l</sup>

MEN'S NAMES.	List.	Amount of 1d on ye List.	Sums given over 1 d.	For them that chuse ye whole in wheat o r part.	For them that chuse ye whole in Rye o r part.	For such as chuse ye whole in In- dian Corn or part.
Oliver Deming	72-2 -6					[D <sup>o</sup> 3 bu.
x Lemuel Deming	44-15	-4-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Eb <sup>r</sup> Deming	28-10					[D <sup>o</sup> 2 Bu.
Eb <sup>r</sup> Deming, Ju <sup>r</sup>	24-					1 Bus <sup>1</sup>
x John Deming	18-	-1- 6	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Simeon Deming	18-					
Moses Deming	101-15	-10-				
Elisha Deming	112-10-6	-9- 6				
Eph <sup>r</sup> Deming	29-					1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Josiah Deming, J <sup>r</sup>	22-4					1
Sam <sup>1</sup> Deming	29-					{ [p <sup>d</sup> by
x Del <sup>r</sup> & Ri <sup>d</sup> Deming	103-15-6	-8- 8				{ 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ Rye.
Tho <sup>s</sup> . Dickinson	101-16				1 Bus <sup>1</sup>	1
Eb <sup>r</sup> Dickinson	48-				1 Bus <sup>1</sup>	
Jon <sup>th</sup> Dickinson	5-					
Ann Deming	-15-					
Jonth. Dickinson, J <sup>r</sup>	44-					
Sam <sup>1</sup> Dix	50- 3-					
x Moses Dix	24-10-	-2- 1	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
x Ozias Dix	27-10-	-2- 2	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Jacob Dix	94-13-					
Charles Dix	79- 5-					3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Edmond Dorr	18-					
William Dilling	93-					
Joseph Farnsworth	38- 8-					
x Joseph Flower	101-10-					
Eliph <sup>1</sup> Flynt	20-					
Ray Flynt	19-					
Luke Fortain [Fortune]	18-					
Ez <sup>1</sup> Foisdick	40- 2-6					
Alex <sup>r</sup> Frasier	76- 5-	-6- 4				
Rob <sup>t</sup> . Francis & Son	189-19-6					5 Bu <sup>1</sup>
Josiah Francis	36- 5-6	-3- 1				
x Charles Francis	30- 2-6	-3-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
John Francis	44- 5-6	-3- 9	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
x Amos Fox	101-13	-8- 0	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Joseph Forbes, Ju <sup>r</sup>	24-10					
Simon Giffen	19-					
Samuel Gleason	21-					
Eliz <sup>r</sup> & Josiah Goodrich	103-15					5 Bus.
Nath <sup>1</sup> Goodrich	119- 6	-10-				
x Eliz <sup>r</sup> Goodrich, Ju <sup>r</sup>	61-12-6	-12-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
David Goodrich	39- 7-6	-3- 4				
Nath <sup>1</sup> Goodrich, Ju <sup>r</sup>	26-15-0					
x John Goodrich	46- 8-0		p <sup>d</sup> Ez. W.			2 Bu <sup>1</sup>
Eph <sup>m</sup> Goodrich	18-					

MEN'S NAMES.	List.	Amount of 1 <sup>o</sup> on ye list.	Sums given over 1 d.	For such as chuse the whole in Bus. of Wheat or part.	For such as chuse ye whole in Bushels of Rye or part.	For such as chuse ye whole in Bushels of Ind. Corn or part.
Elisha Griswold	59-4	-4-11				
Simeon Griswold	27- 2-6	-3-				
Mable Griswold	72-18-6				3	
Ozias Griswold	93- 3-6			2 Bu <sup>1</sup>		
x Daniel Griswold	111- 6-6	-9- 6	p <sup>d</sup> in	grain		
William Griswold	43-13	-4-				
Timothy Griswold	39-10-6	-4-				
x Phinehas Griswold	48-12					2 Bushel.
Frederick Griswold	38- 2-6					1 $\frac{1}{2}$ bus.
Felix Griswold	20- 7-6	-1- 9				
Eben <sup>r</sup> Griswold's Heirs	19-14-0					
Jehiel Griswold	20-12-6	-1- 6				
x Benez <sup>r</sup> Hale	78-01-0	-6-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Abigail Hale	5- 2-6					
James Hale	36-	-3-				
Will <sup>m</sup> Hale	18-					
Josiah Hart		-3-				
x Francis Hanmer	77- 8-	-10-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
x John Hanmer	32-15-	-6-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
x Francis Hanmer, Ju <sup>r</sup>	53-	-5-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
x Sam <sup>1</sup> Hanmer	59- 5-	-6-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
James Hanmer	24-	-3-				
Zeph. Hatch	22- 5-					
Thomas Harriss	65- 1-					
Hosea Harriss	97-15-	-8- 0				
Thomas Harriss, Ju <sup>r</sup>	70-07-6					
Asahel Hills	18-					
x Tho <sup>s</sup> . Hurlbut	120- 9-6					5 Bush <sup>1</sup>
Elijah Hurlbut	32-13-					
x Elijah Hurlbut, Ju <sup>r</sup>	26-	-2- 2	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Simeon Hurlbut	25- 7-6					1 Bu <sup>1</sup>
Will <sup>m</sup> Hurlbut	90-					3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Bu <sup>1</sup>
Sarah Hurlbut	23-16-					
Nath <sup>1</sup> Hurlbut	27- 5-					
Nath <sup>1</sup> Hurlbut, Ju <sup>r</sup>	18-					
Josiah Hurlbut	18-					
Tho <sup>s</sup> . Horner	18-					
George Kilbourn	18-					1
Will <sup>m</sup> Kilby	18-					1 Bus.
Eb <sup>r</sup> Kilby, Ju <sup>r</sup>	18-					
x Tho <sup>s</sup> . Kilby	37- 5-	3-6				
x Rich <sup>d</sup> Kilby	22-10-	3	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Christ <sup>o</sup> . Allyn Kilby	18-					
Martha Knowles	1- 8-3					
James Knowles	19-					
John Latimer	19- 5-					



MEN'S NAMES.	List.	Amount of 1d on ye List.	Sums given over 1 d.	For them that chose ye whole in wheat o r part.	For them that chose ye whole in Rye o r part.	For such as chose ye whole in In- dian Corn or part.
Bezaleel Latimer	29- 2-6				$\frac{2}{1}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ bu.	
James Lockwood	25-13-6					
Sam <sup>l</sup> Lockwood	18-					
Moses Lockwood	18-					
x John Loveland	34- 5-					1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Bu.
W <sup>m</sup> . Loveland	32-					
Silas Loomis	65-18	-5- 6				
x Hez. & Hez. Jr May	115- 0-	12- 0				
Sam <sup>l</sup> May	98-18-	-8- 3				
x William May	21-	-3-				
x Sam <sup>l</sup> May, Jr	21-				1 bush.	
James Mitchel	188- 9 -					
x James Mitchel, Jr	26-10-	-3-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			3 Bus.
David Mitchel	60-15-					
x Steph <sup>a</sup> M. Mitchel	122-12-	10-3				
Richard Montagu	41-10-	-3-6				
Ann Montague	2- 5-					
John Moreton (?) Jr	62-16-				2	
c Tho <sup>s</sup> . Newson	93- 2-6					
Sarah Nott	79- 7-6					3
Nicholas Nevins	18-					
x Patrick Oconeley	27-					
Elizabeth Palmer	11- 1					
x Jn <sup>o</sup> & Sam <sup>l</sup> Pierce	44-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ bu.	Ry <sup>l</sup> mys	elf & ( )	pd the	Cash.
x Ez <sup>l</sup> Porter	131-18-				5 5	Bush <sup>l</sup>
Jno. Rennalls, Jr. (Reynolds)	30-14-	-3-				
Richard Rennalls [Reynolds]	18-	-1-6 $\frac{1}{2}$	P <sup>d</sup> Ez <sup>l</sup> W.			
x Simeon Richards	33- 8-	-2-10				
x Eli Richards	44- 4-	-3- 9				
Sam <sup>ll</sup> Riley	39- 5-					
Sam <sup>ll</sup> Riley, Jr	20-				$\frac{2}{1}$ Bush.	
Simeon Riley	18-					
x Levi Riley	34-15-	-4-				
x Ashbel Riley	59-	-4-11	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.	& 6/p <sup>d</sup> E. W.	3 Bush.	
x Justus Riley	63-15-					
Jon <sup>th</sup> Robbins	156-18-	-14-				
x Joshua Robbins, Jr	96-14-					4 bushels.
Jon <sup>th</sup> Robbins, Jr	30-10-					1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
x Appleton Robbins	43-	-4-8 $\frac{1}{2}$	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
x Josiua Robbins	127-10-				3	
Josiah Robbins & Son	121- 2-	12-				
Will <sup>m</sup> Robbins	19- 5-					
Hez. Robbins	23-10-					
Mich <sup>l</sup> Robbins	21- 4-	-2-				
Alex <sup>r</sup> Roods [Rhodes]	45-10-					
Will <sup>m</sup> Roods	35-16-	-3-			1 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 2	Bus.

MEN'S NAMES.	List.	Amount of 1d on ye List.	Sums given over 1d.	For such as chuse the whole in bus. of wheat, or part.	For such as chuse ye whole in bushels of Rye, or part.	For such as chuse ye whole in bushels of Ind. corn or part.
Mary Roods	14- 2-	-2- 6				
Joseph Roods	18-					
x Sam <sup>11</sup> Rose	127-	-12-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Sam <sup>11</sup> Rose, Ju <sup>r</sup> .	19-15-					
John Russell <sup>s</sup> Heirs	34-					
x Tim <sup>o</sup> Russell	34- 8-	-3-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Jedediah Sanborn	72- 6-				2 $\frac{1}{4}$ bush.	
Zach. Seymour	18-					
Elisab Seymour	4- 2-6					
Josiah Smith	161- 3-				4	
Jn <sup>o</sup> Smith & Jn <sup>o</sup> Goodrich	60-	-5- 6				
Joseph Smith	81-	-6- 9				
Isr <sup>1</sup> & Jon <sup>th</sup> Smith	91- 4-6					
x Han <sup>b</sup> Standish	11-15-	}				4 bus <sup>1</sup>
x John Standish	41-14-					
x James Standish	44- 8-6					
x George Stanley	60- 5-	-5- 9	p <sup>d</sup> Ez. W.			
Eliz <sup>b</sup> Steel	-15-					
Nath <sup>1</sup> Stillman	94-15-	-8-				
x Allyn Stillman	47- 3-	-4- 0				
x Joseph Stillman	107- 1-6	-9-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Sam <sup>11</sup> Stillman	23- 9-6	-3-				
George Stillman	4-15-					
x Elisha Stillman	67-	-6-	p <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
x Epaphras Stradder						
[Stoddard]	53- 2-	-5-	p <sup>d</sup> Ez. W.			
x Will <sup>m</sup> Strong	48- 2-6	-5- 3				
Gershom Smith	18-					
Reuben Shaler	20-					
x Eb <sup>b</sup> Talcott	75-15-					3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hu.
x Mary Talcott	13-15-					1
x Oliver Treat	59-15-	-15-				
Elisha Treat	91- 4-	-3-				
John Treat	22- 5-					
Abij. Tryon	27-10-					
Eli Tryon	30-14-					
William Warner	180- 4-				6 bush.	
Moses Tryon	18-	-3-				
x William Warner, J <sup>r</sup>	54- 9-					
Dan <sup>1</sup> Warner, J <sup>r</sup>	55-					2
x John Warner, J <sup>r</sup>	98-17-6	0-8-6				2 $\frac{3}{4}$
x Sarah Webster	33-17-	2-10				
x Tho <sup>s</sup> ., Sam. & W <sup>m</sup> Welles	234-14-	1-0-0				
x Chester Welles	59-15-	6-0	Ez. W <sup>ms</sup>			
Tho <sup>s</sup> . Welles, Ju <sup>r</sup>	-96-			1 wh.		2 bushel.

MEN'S NAMES.	List	Amount of 1d on ye List.	Sums given over 1d.	For such as chuse the whole in bus. of wheat, or part.	For such as chuse ye whole in bushels or Rye, or part.	For such as chuse ye whole in bushels or Ind. corn or part.
x Sol <sup>o</sup> . & Sol <sup>o</sup> . Ju. Welles	167-11-	-15-				
Wait & Oliv <sup>r</sup> Welles	72-14-	6- 7				4 bus <sup>1</sup>
x Josiah Welles	64-13-6					
x Hez. Welles	98- 1-3	-9-				
Mary Welles	17-					
x Seth Welles	29-10-					2 bus <sup>1</sup> W.
x Joseph, Jo. <sup>ua</sup> . & Elij. Welles	175- 9-			4 bus <sup>1</sup>		
x Joshua Welles	79-12-			1 b <sup>1</sup>		2 Do
x Ichabod Welles	99-					
x James Welles	107- 2-6			} 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ meslin		5 Bush <sup>1</sup>
Th <sup>o</sup> . (?) Welles 3 [third?]	42- 8-0					
John 3 & James Welles	37- 8-					
David Welles	32-12-					
Eli Welles	27- 4-					
Eliz. Wills	12-14-					
Jon <sup>th</sup> Wills	34- 0-6	-3-				
x Stephen Willard	98-16-					4 bushel.
x Simon Willard	51-16-					[Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ bu
x Elisha Williams	120- 9-					8 bu. Do.
x Ez <sup>1</sup> Williams	82- 6-6	1-0-0				
x Oth <sup>1</sup> Williams [Othniel]	81-10-	0-10-0	P <sup>d</sup> Ez <sup>1</sup> W.			
David Williams	64-					
x Absalom Williams	49-17-	0-4-6				
Tho <sup>s</sup> . Wise	8-18-3					
Joseph Woodhouse	17-15-					
John Woodhouse	63-	-5- 3				
x Sam <sup>1</sup> Woodhouse	53- 2-3	4-10	P <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
x Lemuel Woodhouse	35- 3-6					1 $\frac{1}{2}$
x Sam <sup>1</sup> Wolcott	104- 6-0	-10-	P <sup>d</sup> E. W.			
Solomon Wolcott	37-15-	3- 6				
Nath <sup>1</sup> Wolcott	18-					
x Elisha Wolcott & Son	129-15-	-12-	P <sup>d</sup> Ez. W.			
Josiah Wolcott	29-17-6					
Elisha Wright	136-18-6					

[This is the foot of last page.]

[There may have been an additional page now missing.<sup>1</sup>]

<sup>1</sup>The foregoing list was copied by me, in 1891, from the original, which I suppose to have come from among some papers once belonging to Ezekiel Williams Sen., of Wethersfield; who was a "Commissary of Prisoners" in the Revolutionary War, and a zealous patriot. The original was loaned to me by Mrs. McLean of Wethersfield, and a granddaughter of the aforesaid Ezekiel Williams. The heading was in the handwriting of Silas Deane.—S. W. A.  
Aug. 3d. 1892.

This generous donation was accompanied by the following note:

*"To the Select Men, or Overseer of the Poor in Boston:*

"Gentlemen:

"We being sometime since, at a Town meeting held in this place, appointed a committee to take in a subscription for the Town of Boston, and having the most Tender Sympathy with the Inhabitants of your worthy and very respectable Metropolis under their present severe and unparalleled Sufferings in the Cause of American Liberty from the Cruel and Oppressive Edict of a British Parliament, most cheerfully Undertook the Trust, and have been (agreeable to the Sense of the Town) endeavoring to Collect in Grain, as was proposed a proportion among the Inhabitants, as nearly as might be to the value of 1d on the Pound on the List of the Polls and Ratable Estate, etc.—but as many People have expended almost or quite all their old Stores, and have none they can now Spare, have not raised so much as we flattered ourselves we should have done; but supposing what we could now send before Harvest, might be more Acceptable than after—when we Trust many other towns round about us will be sending, have now forwarded by Capt. Isaac Williams (who went last Saturday down the River), as you will see by his Rec't Enclosed, viz., 34 $\frac{3}{4}$  bushels of Wheat, 243 $\frac{1}{2}$  of Rye and 390 of Indian Corn (which small Mite we hope thro' the great Indulgence of the Commander of your Fleets and Armies may be carried in with safety) and for which we shall pay him the Freight at one half penny pr bushel less than Customary (for which he was so kind, as besides putting in his proportion) to Consent to Transport it. The whole as proposed by the Town would amount to about 20 or 30 pounds more, which we hope after Harvest to be able to Collect and send and if need be much more. Earnestly wishing you may have Prudence, Wisdom and Fortitude (much of which is needed) so to Conduct under the many more Insults, which we expect will yet be offered, as to prevent the dreadful Consequences of a Civil War, and disappoint those at Home whom we verily believe wish to have verified the Lyes they have so industriously reported and spread among the People there, that America is in an Actual State of Rebellion—and in full Confidence you will never give up the Glorious Cause in which you have hitherto stood foremost in Suffering, unless some Measures can be come into which we doubt not but may, and we hope and trust will be, in the general Congress (which we Rejoice to find is likely soon to take place) that shall confound all the Enemies of Boston,



America and Great Britain, and bring about a happy Issue of the present Glorious Struggle for Liberty—and we trust notwithstanding the many Cruel Invections thrown out by the common Enemy the Bostonians will be remembered with everlasting Honour, We are Gentlemen, touched with the most Tender Sense of your really distressed Situation your Sincere Friends in the Common Cause and hearty well-wishes

Ezekiel Williams

Elisha Deming

Elias Williams

William Griswold

Martin Kellogg

Solomon Dunham

Committee

Wethersfield, July 25, 1774

P. S. We have directed, in Conformity to the Vote of the Town appointing us, &c. To the Select Men or Overseers of the Poor in Boston, but have superscribed this to John Barret, Esq., as we understood (Selectmen?) were desired to do in Case they sent some grain—some of which they proposed is now on board.”<sup>1</sup>

One can hardly understand what excitement the passage of this *Boston Port Bill* had upon the already inflamed temper of the Colonies. It came into effect, June 1, 1774, and its effect was instantaneous. “The utter destruction of all business,” caused by it, “soon produced great distress in the city. The rich, deprived of their rents, soon became straitened; and the poor, denied the privilege of labor, were reduced to beggary.” Aimed as the blow was, at Boston, it was keenly felt by all the Colonies and each vied with the others in contributing to her relief. From Georgia, from Canada, and even from the City of London, in its corporate capacity, came generous donations, in money goods and provisions “for the relief of the poor in Boston.” London’s gift was equal to \$150,000!

“The excited state of feeling in the neighborhood of Wethersfield is briefly indicated in the following item in the *Boston Gazette* of June 20th: “The first of June, when the Boston Port Bill took place, was observed by the inhabitants of Hartford, in Connecticut, as a day of

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<sup>1</sup> From records of the Boston “Committee of Correspondence”—printed in *Mass. Hist. Society's Collections*, 4th Series IV. p. 16-18.

Also from a copy made by S W. Adams, Esq. from an original document in the possession of Mrs. Mary D. McLean, at Wethersfield, and printed in a Hartford paper, Oct. 25, 1887. *H. R. S.*

mourning. The bells began to toll early in the morning, and continued until evening; the Town House was hung with black, and the Edict affixed thereto; the shops were all shut and the windows covered with black and other ensigns of distress."

To their very polite letter given on page 429, the Wethersfield people received the following grateful and equally polite reply.

"Sir:

"Your very obliging Letter of the 25th Inst. directed 'to the Selectmen or Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Boston' has been by them communicated to a Committee of this Town appointed to receive the Donations made for the Employment or Relief of such Inhabitants as are or may be more immediate Sufferers by the cruel Act of Parliament for shutting up our Harbour. At the desire and in the Name of this Committee, I am very grateful to acknowledge the generosity of the Town of Wethersfield, in the Donation made by them for the purpose above mentioned, consisting of  $34\frac{1}{2}$  bushels of Wheat,  $243\frac{1}{2}$  of Rye, and 390 of Indian Corn, which your Letter informs us is forwarded by Capt. Israel Williams; and for their kind Intentions still further. They may be assured that their Beneficence will be applied to the Purpose for which they have designed it. This Town is now suffering the Stroke of Ministerial vengeance—as they apprehend, for the Liberties of America; and it affords them Abundant Satisfaction to find that they have the concurrent Sentiments of their Brethren in the Sister Colonies in their favor, evidenced by the most liberal Acts of Munificence for their Support. While they are thus encouraged and supported, I trust they will never be so ungrateful to their friends as well as lost to a Sense of Virtue as to 'give up the Glorious Cause.' They have need of Wisdom and fortitude to confound the Devices of their Enemies and to endure the hard Conflict with Dignity. They rejoice in the approaching American Congress, and trust that by the Divine Direction and Blessing such measures will be taken as will 'bring about a happy issue of the present glorious Struggle' and secure the Right of America upon the permanent Principles of equal Liberty and Truth.

"I am, with very great Regard to the Gentlemen of your Committee  
Sir

Your Friend and Fellow Countryman

SAMUEL ADAMS

Boston, July 29th, 1774."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Note p. 430.

The Samuel Adams who signs this letter was the eminent patriot, and inflexible leader of the early Revolutionary period in Massachusetts.

Not only did the Wethersfield folks do thus much, but later in the year, they remembered their promise to send "after Harvest"; for we find the following letter of acknowledgment for a second contribution sent in November:

"Boston, November, 1774

"Gentlemen:

"We would with gratitude acknowledge the receipt of Fifty-five and three quarters bushl Rye, seven and three quarters Wheat, and Eight and three quarters of Indian Corn received by Capt. Solomon Loveland, from our worthy brethren of Wethersfield, being a second donation to the poor, suffering by means of the Tyrannical Port Bill. We can't but Eye the hand of Providence in spiriting our Brethren in the Colony of Connecticut, and Indeed throughout this Continent, to assist and strengthen this distressed Town. We trust our sufferings will in the End be for the Advantage of North America, and are therefore animated to presevere in a Cause which we reckon the whole Continent are concerned in.

"We wish you the smiles of Heaven and the Divine protection and are Gentlemen

Your most Humble Servants

BENJAMIN AUSTIN

Boston, November 16th, 1774."<sup>1</sup>

Per order of the Committee of Donations

P. S. Inclosed is a printed half-sheet giving our account of the doings of the Committee which hope will be satisfactory

*Ezekiel Williams*, Esq., and others the Committee of Correspondence at Wethersfield.

At a meeting on the 5th of September, following (being two days after the "Boston Alarm" and occasioned by it), of which Capt. Thomas Belden was the moderator, the same Ezekiel Williams, Martin Kellogg and Solomon Dunham, together with Capt. Belden, Mr. Stephen

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<sup>1</sup> See Note p. 430.

Mix Mitchell (then a lawyer, thirty years of age), Capt. Elisha Williams, Capt. John Chester, Mr. Silas Deane and Mr. John Robbins, were chosen a Committee of Correspondence. Mitchell, Belden and Ezekiel Williams were chosen delegates to the Convention proposed to be held at Hartford on the 15th of the same month "to consult about a Non-consumptive Agreement, etc." A supply of 500 pounds of powder was ordered for the Town, with "bullets and flints in proportion."

*The Town Endorses the Continental Congress' Plan of Association, &c.—1774.*—On the 12th of December, the "Articles of Association" then recently adopted by the Continental Congress, were discussed and formally approved in town meeting; especially the Article providing for town committees of surveillance over persons suspected of being too friendly to the British Government and interests. Such a committee was then chosen, consisting of Ezekiel Williams, Elisha Williams, Thomas Belden, Silas Deane, Stephen Mix Mitchell, Elias Williams, Oliver Pomroy, Martin Kellogg, John Chester, Francis Hanmer, Solomon Dunham, John Robbins and Barnabas Deane.<sup>1</sup>

From all of which, it appears that Wethersfield was early and wide awake in the stirring events which preceded the Revolutionary struggle. The town, also, was, at this time, particularly fortunate in the number and character of its young men, and of those who were in, or entering upon active middle life. Its leading men were in themselves a tower of strength. There was SILAS DEANE, one of the most active and efficient members of the Continental Congress of that year (1774), a man of means, of education and of acquaintance with public men and affairs; a confidant of General Washington and ultimately an important factor in the diplomatic history of the Revolutionary struggle. There was Capt. EZEKIEL WILLIAMS (a brother of that William Williams, of Lebanon, Conn., who signed the Declaration of Independence), who occupied with much credit to himself, and fidelity to the cause, the

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<sup>1</sup>The *Plan of Association* was signed Oct. 20th, 1774, at Carpenter's Hall Philadelphia, by delegates from twelve colonies, and contained *fourteen* articles; the *eleventh*, referred to above, as having been especially approved by the Wethersfield Town Meeting, 12 Dec., 1774, provided for the appointment of a Committee in each town, to "observe the conduct of all persons," and to publish in the *Gazette* the names of all such as should "violate the Association," as "enemies of American Liberty," etc. With such a formidable detail of observers as were provided by the appointment of the above named Committee, Wethersfield tories, if there were any, must have had a very slim chance to commit any acts which were detrimental to "the Cause." There seems, however, to be a *tradition* extant, that one such (a stranger) was apprehended and drummed out of town.



office of Commissary of Prisoners, for the Colony, during the greater part of the War; and his cousin, Capt. ELISHA WILLIAMS, son of the Rector-Colonel of the same name, a merchant and eminently a "man of affairs" in town and State; Colonel JOHN CHESTER (son of the Col. John who had died only three years before), then about 25 years of age, but with an inherited dignity, prudence and sense of command which counted for more than his years—and who was in command of the oldest of the four military companies in the township—the First, or Broad Street Company; STEPHEN MIX MITCHELL, an energetic young lawyer, afterwards a United States Senator and Chief Justice of the State; Capt. THOMAS BELDEN, a graduate of Yale, and soon to become Colonel of the Sixth Regiment (Wethersfield) in the impending struggle. Capt. WILLIAM GRISWOLD, of Rocky Hill, a sea captain, who was soon to be found battling for Liberty, in his brig, the *Minerva*, on the high seas; and to complete the group, Lieut. BARNABAS DEANE, who was, like his brother Silas, a merchant largely interested in the West India trade; and last, but not least, Rev. JOHN MARSH, then recently installed in his office—a Harvard tutor—young, earnest and burning with patriotism. Back of these prominent figures, were banked a community of men and women intelligent, well educated (embracing no inconsiderable number of college students and graduates); and thoroughly in earnest in their devotion to the cause of Political Freedom.

Little wonder is it, then, that its record during the Revolutionary War, forms one of the brightest pages of Wethersfield's history.

The fight being now "fairly on" we shall, as far as possible, arrange our historical data under the several years during which the War of the Revolution was waged.

*Campaign of 1775.*—The "*Lexington Alarm*," as it was called, that is, the news of the collision, on the 19th of April, 1775, between British troops marching upon Concord, and the hastily gathered bodies of farmer-soldiers who endeavored to obstruct their passage—acting like flint struck upon tinder, threw the Colonies into the flash and flame of actual War. For months, the people had been on the *qui vive* of expectation of some such occurrence—and, with their minds fully made up as to what they would do in such event, their action was as sudden as lightning. "Prepared, to a certain extent, for such an alarm, a large number of able-bodied men in Connecticut, hurried off to Massachusetts. 'Marched for the relief of Boston' (as the endorsement of

their company muster rolls reads) shows the extent of their sympathies and the nature of the service as they understood it. This response was not the official act of the Colony, or, on the other hand, an impromptu movement of individuals without previous organization. An 'uprising' of armed men might have partaken of a mob character; and the militia regiments, as such, could only be called out by the Governor or Legislature. It was rather a movement of townsmen marching under their militia organizations. The gathering thus became orderly, as well as spontaneous and represented the town spirit shown previously in protests and resolutions. It appears from the records that, in some cases, the companies or trainbands collected and marched off under their officers without further orders; in other cases, the colonels taking the lead, called out a certain number of men and directed them to march forthwith \* \* \* in a few cases companies were organized for the special service; in addition, many individuals, not belonging to the militia, joined in the march, either providing for themselves, or going with the companies."<sup>1</sup> Col. Williams of the 11th Regiment sends out word on the 20th, "That it will be expedient for every man to go that is fit and willing"; and a letter, dated Wethersfield, April 23rd, describes the scene there as follows: "We are all in motion here and equipt from the Town yesterday, 100 young men, who cheerfully offered their services, 2 days provisions and 64 rounds per man. They are all well armed and in high spirits. My brother has gone with them and others of the first property. Our neighboring towns are all arming and moving. Men of the first character shoulder their arms and march off for the field of action. We shall, by night, have several thousands from this Colony on their march \* \* \* \* We fix on our Standards and Drums the Colony arms, with the motto '*Qui transulit Sustinet*' round it in letters of gold, which we construe thus, "God, who transplanted us hither, will support us.'"

In this spirit of devotion, some 4,000 men are said to have marched from Connecticut on the "Lexington Alarm." The duty turned out to be brief; indeed, some companies were turned back, by orders, from Boston, as not being needed; though even among these there were many individuals who elected and were permitted to press forward "to the front."

Naturally, the man to whom these young Wethersfield patriots turned in this hour of martial excitement, was Capt. JOHN CHESTER, commanding the Broad Street, or First Company of the Sixth Militia Regi-

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<sup>1</sup> Johnston *Rec. of Services of Conn. Men in the War of the Revolution*—1889: p. 4.

ment. Of honorable descent and social position, a graduate of Yale, and with strong military tendencies, and an assured reputation for prudence and wisdom, though himself a young man among young men, he became at once the rallying point of these young devotees of patriotism. Promptly, when the "Lexington Alarm" reached Wethersfield, which must have been either by night of the 20th or the morning of the 21st, Chester and his men made ready, and by the 22d, he was on his way Boston-wards, at the head of perhaps the largest and certainly the best equipped and trained company of volunteers which marched from Connecticut.<sup>1</sup>

*The Lexington Alarm Company Muster Roll* (made up, with some re-arrangement of names), as certified to, July 11th, 1775, by Elisha Deming, Levi Boardman and Stephen Mix Mitchell, Selectmen, is as follows [the several parishes to which these men belonged, are designated by the letter *S.* for Stepney and *N.* for Newington]:

John Chester, Capt.  
 Martin Kellogg, First Lieut. (N.)  
 Chester Welles, Second Lieut.  
 John Beekley, Third Lieut. (N.)  
 Barnabas Deane, Ensign.  
 Roger Bull, Clerk.  
 Charles Butler, Serg't.  
 Thomas Welles, Serg't. (N.)  
 Solomon Stoddard, Serg't. (N.)  
 William Warner, Serg't.  
 Hezekiah Butler, Corp'l.  
 Eiel Williams, Corp'l.  
 Ebenezer Dickinson, Corp'l. (N.)  
 Benjamin Catlin, Corp'l.  
 William Fosdick, Fifer.  
 William Tryon, Drummer.

#### PRIVATES:

Amasa Adams.  
 John Atwood. (N.)  
 Henry Brown. (N.)

Jonan. Belden.  
 [Jonan. B.] Balch.  
 Edward Brown.  
 George Bradly. (N.)  
 Timothy Brooks.  
 Alvin Bigelow.  
 Thomas Bunce.  
 Daniel Buck.  
 Elisha Belden.  
 Samuel Boardman, (N.)  
 John Barnes.  
 John Benton.  
 Return Boardman.  
 Elijah Boardman. (N.)  
 Sam'l. Boardman, 2d.  
 Enos Blakeley.  
 Benjn. Beekley. (N.)  
 Soln. Beekley. (N.)  
 Fran. Bulkeley.  
 Soln. Buckley.  
 Michl. Brigden.

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<sup>1</sup> "My great aunt, Miss Marsh (*dau.* of Rev. John Marsh) used to say that 30 of that Company came from Rocky Hill. The Sunday before they started the Company all went to the old Wethersfield church and sat up in the gallery. Dr. Marsh preached, and every one in the church were in tears. Hickey, of Wethersfield, a tall, fine looking Irishman, was one of Gen. Washington's body-guard, and was concerned in the conspiracy against him in New York, in the first of the war."—*Letter of Miss E. E. Dana, of Cambridge, Mass., to Dr. H. R. S.* The name *Hickey* does not anywhere appear on record as a member of any Company from Wethersfield. The nearest approach to it on the rolls is that of *Hinckley*.—*H. R. S.*

Will. Crane.	Chas. Nott.
Nath'l. Coleman.	Selah North. (N.)
Joshua Cone.	Oliver Pomeroy. (S.)
James Clark.	Ackley Riley. (S.)
Daniel Curtis.	Jacob Rash.
Zadock Coleman.	Joseph Rhoads. [Rhodes]
James Camp. (N.)	Nath'l. Russell.
Josiah Deming.	Thos. Russell.
Aaron Deming.	Oliver Robbins.
Dan'l. Deming. (N.)	Joseph Stillman.
Leon. Deming.	Nath'l Sanborn.
Rich. Deming.	Gershom Smith.
Leon. Dix.	John Scripture.
Joseph Dodge.	Jas. Stanley. (N.)
Elisha Dix.	Eben. Stoddard. (N.)
Jonathan Dallapy.	Ashbel Seymour. (N.)
Levi Dickinson.	David Stoddard. (N.)
David Dimock.	Enoch Stoddard. (N.)
Sam. Davis. (N.)	Jonath. Stoddard. (N.)
Sol. Dunham.	Eli Stoddard. (N.)
Jas. Francis. (N.)	Eben. Sanford.
Simon Griffin.	Chas. Treat.
John Goodrich. (N.)	Ashbel Wright. (N.)
Constant Griswold.	Rob. Warner.
Ozias Goodrich.	Benj. Weston.
Will Griswold.	Joseph Wright. (N.)
Asa Hills.	Josiah Welles.
Enos Hunn. (N.)	John Woodhouse.
John Jackson.	Sol. Williams.
David King.	Lem. Webster. (N.)
Jas. Knowles.	David Wolcott. (N.)
Phineas Kellogg. (N.)	Zion Wentworth. (N.)
Will Kelsey. (N.)	Tim. White.
Moses Kelsey. (N.)	Amos Andrus Webster. (N.)
Tim. Kilbourn. (N.)	Israel Williams.
Rich. Montague.	Sol. Wolcott.
Seth. Montague.	Sam. Whitmore.
Hez. May.	Timon (Negro).
Benj. Morton.	

This company of 101 privates, with their officers, were volunteers, taken from all the train band companies in the township. They were all in the service for six days, except Tim. Kilbourn, Ackley Riley, Oliver Pomeroy, Daniel Buck; "and four others," who were each one day in service. The amount reimbursed to the Town, by the Colony, for the expense of this expedition was £156, 2s., 11 d.

In the very first conquest made by the patriots in (or, in fact, preceding) the Revolution, viz.: that of the capture of Fort Ticonderoga, May 10, 1775, by Col. Ethan Allen, but for the assistance of citizens of Wethersfield, might not have attained the success which brought him



so conspicuously into notice. The plan for that enterprise, as has been conclusively shown by the late John Hammond Trumbull,<sup>1</sup> was formed in Hartford by Col. Samuel H. Parsons, of Middletown; Col. Samuel Wyllys of Hartford, and SILAS DEANE, of Wethersfield. Mr. Deane advanced the sum of £380 to Capt. Elisha Phelps, commissary of the expedition, for its expenses; and his brother BARNABAS DEANE also disbursed money from his own means for the same purpose, besides rendering various services, involving time, travel and money, in connection with the capture and possession of that important fortress;<sup>2</sup> while Capt. EZEKIEL WILLIAMS (whom we have previously noted as moderator of several important Town Meetings at this period) was one of six signers of a note for £500 to be used for the furtherance of the same expedition. There were 47 prisoners captured at "Fort Ti," exclusive of Maj. Skene, the British commandant and his officers; and these were "billeted" among the people of Hartford and Wethersfield. Mr. Williams was at this time, one of the three members of the Colonial Committee of the Pay Table; and had the personal charge of some, if not all of the prisoners at Wethersfield; he was, later, Deputy Commissary of Prisoners for the Colony. His prisoners were allowed, and some of them embraced the opportunity, to attend divine service at Dr. Marsh's Church. JOSEPH WEBB, tanner and merchant, and a brother of Col. Samuel B. Webb, was also particularly useful in the Commissariat for the supply of *war material*.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Expedition Against Ticonderoga (The)*. The Origin of the Expedition against Ticonderoga in 1775. By J. H. Trumbull, 8 vo., paper, pp. 15.

Fifty copies printed (privately). Hartford, 1869.

<sup>2</sup> *An Account of Monies advanced out of Publick Treasury of the Colony of Connecticut*, toward the expense of taking possession of the Fortress of Ticonderoga and Posts adjacent, and holding the same previous to Gen. Schuyler's taking the command, and of disposing of and supporting the prisoners brought from there.—See *Rev. War*, Vol. III, *State Archives*.

To Silas Deane, Esqr., and others to furnish those that undertook

the Ticonderoga Enterprise to secure that Fortress.....	£380
To Barnabas Deane, his Bill for Monies disbursed.....	£4, 5s, 4½d.
To Ezekiel Williams, Sr., Committee to improve in providing for Prisoners..	£51, 14s.
To E. Williams, Esq., Committee to order Prisoners.....	£65, 00 00

—*Record of Service of Conn. Mem. in War of Revolution*, p. 32.

Barnabas Deane of Wethersfield is mentioned as among those who rendered various service at or after the Capture of Ticonderoga, viz.: "20 days' service in going to Crown Point and Ty. to assist in supporting and Reinforcing the Garrison therein and sending up Provisions &c., in company with Col. Welles and Porter, before June 6th."—*Record of Service of Conn. Mem. in War of Revolution*, p. 31.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph Webb petitioned the Gen. Assembly at its April (Special) sessions, this year, for leave to export 20 head of cattle, 80 bbls. of Pork &c., on his schooner *The Fox*, commanded by James Mitchell, to the West Indies, notwithstanding the

The General Assembly having, at a special session, in April, 1775, ordered six regiments of volunteers to be raised out of the 22 regiments then existing in the Colony, Wethersfield had a new opportunity to assist in the armed contest now at hand.

Of these new regiments, the Second (Gen. Joseph Spencer's) was recruited mainly in Middlesex County and Eastern Connecticut, and its 9th Company, under command of Capt. John Chester of Wethersfield, comprised 109 men, including officers, and was almost wholly composed of his fellow townsmen and associates.<sup>2</sup> In personal character, complete equipment and soldierly deportment it was conceded to be the *elite corps* of the provincial army which now took the field.<sup>3</sup>

*The Sixth Connecticut (Militia) Regiment*, by May 1st, marching by companies to the camps around Boston, took post at Roxbury and served during the Siege of Boston until the expiration of its term of service in December, 1775. Details of its officers and men were engaged in the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17th, and in Arnold's Quebec Campaign, September-December, 1775. It was adopted as a Continental regiment in July, '75; and was reorganized for service in 1776, under Col. Wyllys.

The Muster Roll of this 9th Company Capt. Chester, (Wethersfield), of this Second Regiment, while before Boston was as follows:

John Chester, Esq., Captain, Commissioned May 1, at Bunker Hill.

Samuel B. Webb, Lieut., Commissioned May 1, at Bunker Hill.

Ebenezer Huntington, Lieut. (of Norwich).

Stephen Goodrich, Lieut., Commissioned May 1, at Bunker Hill.

Charles Butler (N.), Ensign, Commissioned May 1st, at Bunker Hill.

Ashbel Seymour (N.), Serg't, enlisted May 19; discharged Oct. 17th.

Phineas Grover, enlisted May 3; discharged Dec. 17.

Benjamin Catlin, enlisted May 9; discharged Sept. 9.

Daniel Curtis, enlisted May 10; discharged Dec. 17.

James Knowles, enlisted May 10; discharged Sept. 10.

William Tryon, enlisted May 9; Corp'l until Oct. 20; Serg't till Dec. 19.

Joseph Miller, Corp'l, enlisted May 15; discharged Dec. 17.

Abraham McDavell, Corp'l, enlisted May 3; discharged Dec. 10.

Joseph Andrus (N.), Corp'l, enlisted May 11; discharged Dec. 17.

John Benton, Corp'l, enlisted May 10; private till Oct. 20; then Cap. to Dec. 17.

John Russell, Drummer, enlisted May 6; discharged Sept. 6.

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Embargo. The permission was granted—the object of Mr. Webb's venture being probably, to exchange his cargo for salt—a commodity then in much request in the colonies.

<sup>2</sup> By permission of the Gen. Assembly, at its May session, 1775, "Capt. Chester was granted leave to retain the *five* men he had enlisted in excess of his quota."

<sup>3</sup> "By far the most accomplished body of men in the American Army"—see Frothingham's *Siege of Boston*; Humphrey's *Life of Putnam*, etc.

Wm. Tryon, Drummer, enlisted May 16; discharged Dec. 10.  
 Wm. Williams, Fifer, enlisted May 23; died July 30.  
 Wm. Fosdick, Fifer, enlisted May 12; discharged Dec. 17.

#### PRIVATES.

Asahel Andrus.

Ashbel Wright, enlisted May 20; discharged Oct. 16.  
 Jared Bunce, enlisted May 12; discharged Dec. 17.  
 John Allyn, enlisted May 12; never joined.  
 Mical Barce, enlisted May 13; discharged July 5.  
 Jonath. Balch, enlisted May 11; discharged Dec. 17.  
 Isaac Bidwell, enlisted May 8; discharged Nov. 16.  
 Enos Blackely, enlisted May 12; discharged Nov. 8.  
 Abraham Blin, enlisted May 13; discharged Sept. 13.  
 Hezekiah Blin, enlisted May 13; discharged Oct. 25.  
 Seth Boardman, enlisted May 9; discharged Dec. 17.  
 Samuel Boardman (N.), enlisted May 15; discharged Oct. 12.  
 Jonathan Bowers (N.), enlisted May 12; discharged Dec. 4.  
 Timothy Brooks (N.), enlisted May 11; discharged Dec. 10.  
 Levy Brooks (N.), enlisted May 8; discharged Dec. 17.  
 Thomas Brooks (N.), enlisted May 6; discharged Dec. 17.  
 Edward Brown, enlisted May 9; discharged Oct. 19.  
 Francis Bulkley, enlisted May 12; discharged Dec. 17.  
 James Burnham, enlisted May 11; discharged Dec. 7.  
 Orrin Burnham, enlisted May 15; discharged Dec. 17.  
 John Buller, enlisted May 13; discharged Dec. 17.  
 James McClean, enlisted May 8; discharged Dec. 7.  
 Gideon Cole, enlisted May 8; discharged Dec. 10.  
 Nath'l Coleman, enlisted May 12; discharged Sept. 12.  
 William Crane, enlisted May 8; deserted Dec. 1.—See p. 513.  
 Joseph Crane, enlisted May 3; discharged Dec. 17.  
 Thos. Croly (?), enlisted May 15; discharged Dec. 17.  
 John Dallaber, enlisted May 10; discharged Dec. 10.<sup>1</sup>  
 Samuel Davies (N.), enlisted May 11; discharged Dec. 10.  
 Samuel Delling (?), enlisted May 8; discharged Dec. 1.  
 Daniel Deming (N.), enlisted May 15; discharged Dec. 17.  
 Leonard Dicks (Dix) (N.), enlisted May 15; discharged Dec. 17.  
 Seth Paddy, enlisted May 11; discharged Dec. 10.  
 Benj. Evans, enlisted May 8; discharged Dec. 10.  
 Eliphalet Flint, enlisted May 9; discharged Dec. 17.  
 Simeon Fox, enlisted May 3; discharged Dec. 10.  
 Roger Fox, enlisted May 8; killed in battle of Bunker Hill, June 17.  
 James Francis (N.), enlisted May 15; discharged Dec. 17.  
 Abner Fuller, enlisted May 12; never joined.  
 Jacob Gibbs, enlisted May 10; died Nov. 24.  
 Jonas Clark Gibbs, enlisted May 10; discharged Dec. 17.  
 Isaac Goodrich, enlisted May 13; discharged Dec. 17.  
 Hosea Goodrich, enlisted May 11; discharged Oct. 21.  
 Ozias Goodrich, enlisted May 12; discharged Dec. 17.

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<sup>1</sup> Dallibier (sometimes spelled Dallapy), was probably of Huguenot extraction, and in France the name was *dé l'Épee*; now Delliber. Poss., also, *Dolliver* is a corrupted form of same name.

Elizur Goodrich, enlisted May 15; discharged Dec. 10.  
Azariah Grant, enlisted May 9; discharged Dec. 10.  
Content Griswold, enlisted May 12; discharged Dec. 17.  
Thomas Hinckley, enlisted May 9; discharged Dec. 10.  
Asahel Hills, enlisted May 10; discharged Dec. 10.  
Anson Hollister, enlisted May 6; discharged Dec. 17.  
Elijah Hollister, enlisted May 8; discharged Dec. 17.  
Thomas Holmes, enlisted May 15; discharged Dec. 17.  
Thomas Hoskins (?); enlisted May 9; deserted Aug. 1.  
Eli Hurlburt, enlisted May 15; discharged Oct. 17.  
Silas Hurlburt, enlisted May 11; discharged Oct. 16.  
John Jackson, enlisted May 8; died Sept. 28.  
Seth Kilbourn (N.), enlisted May 15; discharged Nov. 21.  
Christopher Kilby, enlisted May 9; discharged Dec. 17.  
David King, enlisted May 11; discharged Dec. 17.  
Asa Loveland, enlisted May 8; died Oct. 24.  
Abisha Marks (N.), enlisted May 11; discharged Dec. 17.  
Hez. Mackey, enlisted May 12; discharged Dec. 17.  
John Miller (?), enlisted May 5; discharged Dec. 17.  
Joseph Millar, enlisted May 6; discharged Dec. 17.  
Jno. Miner, enlisted May 8; discharged Nov. 9.  
James Murphy, enlisted May 13; discharged Dec. 17.  
Elihu Phelps, enlisted May 10; discharged Dec. 10.  
Benoni Powell, enlisted May 11; died Nov. 4.  
Jacob Rash, enlisted May 15; discharged Dec. 17.  
Oliver Raymond, enlisted May 5; discharged Dec. 17.  
Frederick Robbins, enlisted May 12; discharged Sept. 17.  
William Rowlandson, enlisted May 11; died in prison, Boston.  
Joseph Rowlandson, enlisted May 10; discharged Oct. 24.  
Steph. Sabins, enlisted May 8; died June 30.  
Moses Scott, enlisted May 8; discharged Dec. 1.  
Reuben Sherman, enlisted May 6; discharged Dec. 10.  
Gershom Smith, enlisted May 10; killed June 17.  
Epaphras Stevens, enlisted May 10; discharged Dec. 17.  
Hez. Stocking, enlisted May 4; discharged Dec. 10.  
Enoch Stoddard (N), enlisted May 12; discharged Oct. 18.  
David Stoddard (N.), enlisted May 15; discharged Dec. 17.  
Lawrence Sullivan, enlisted May 13; discharged Dec. 10; prisoner.  
Ashbel Taylor, enlisted May 9; discharged Dec. 17.  
Charles Treat, enlisted May 12; discharged Dec. 17.  
Elias Weare, enlisted May 8; discharged Dec. 7.  
William Weare, enlisted May 8; discharged Dec. 17.  
Josiah Wells, enlisted May 12; discharged Dec. 10.  
Zion Wentworth (N.), enlisted May 15; discharged Dec. 7.  
Elizur Wright, enlisted May 13; discharged Dec. 17.  
Waitstill Dickinson, enlisted Oct. 20; discharged Nov. 30.

It will be seen that some of this company were from other towns than Wethersfield. Lieut. EBENEZER HUNTINGTON was the son of Gen. Jabez Huntington, and at the time the war broke out was a student at Yale College. The news of the Battle of Lexington practically suspended the operations of that institution and students began to



leave hastily for their homes and "the war." Among these, according to tradition, young Huntington, failing to get the desired permission to leave from the College authorities, decamped over night—not to Norwich, his home, but to the recruiting station at Wethersfield, where lived his brother-in-law, Capt. Chester, in whose company he was speedily enlisted (thus commencing a military career which culminated in an honorably won brigadier-general's commission) and pushed on to the front at Boston, whither his brother Jedidiah, had preceded him to the seat of war.

Capt. Chester himself was, at this time, but twenty-six years old; and his first Lieutenant SAMUEL B. WEBB was but twenty-two years of age, though (probably through the influence of his step-father, Silas Deane, Esq., as well as his own merits) soon to become an aide-de-camp to Gen. Washington, with a brevet rank of brigadier general.

It is a noteworthy fact that no less than five members of the GOODRICH family were in this company at Bunker Hill, but it is no more than might have been expected, when we recall the earlier military record of this remarkable stock of French and Indian War Fighters. The two ROWLANDSONS were descendants of the Rev. Joseph Rowlandson, a former pastor at Wethersfield, whose wife and children had been "captivated" by the Indians in the preceding century; and others on this muster roll were the sons of those who had braved death and disaster on many a forest trail in the Old French Wars.

*The Wethersfield Company at the Battle of Bunker Hill.* Capt. Chester and his company were at this time quartered in Roxbury and this is his account of their share in that action, in a letter, dated 22 June, 1775, to his home—the last part of which document is unfortunately lost: "Just after dinner, on Saturday, 7th ult., I was walking out from my lodgings, quite calm and composed, and all at once the drums beat to arms, and bells rang, and a great noise in Cambridge. Capt. Putnam came by on full gallop. 'What is the matter?' says I. 'Have you not heard?' 'No.' 'Why the regulars are landing at Charleston,' says he, 'and father [Gen. Putnam] says you must all meet and march immediately to Bunker Hill to oppose the enemy.' I waited not, but ran and got my arms and ammunition, and hasted to my company (who were in the Church for barracks) and found them nearly ready to march. We soon marched, with our frocks and trousers on over our other clothes (for our company is in uniform, wholly blue, turned up with red) for we were loath to expose ourselves by our dress, and down we marched. I imagine we arrived at the hill

near the close of the battle \* \* \* We were very soon in the heat of action. Before we reached the summit of Bunker Hill, and while we were going over the Neck, we were in imminent danger for the cannon shot, which buzzed around us like hail. The musketry began before we passed the Neck, and when we were at the top of the hill and during our descent to the foot of it on the South, the small as well as cannon shot were incessantly whistling by us. We joined our army on the right of the centre, just by a poor stone fence, two or three feet high, and very thin, so that the bullets came through. Here we lost our regularity, as every company had done before us, and fought as they did, every man loading and firing as fast as he could. As near as I could guess, we fought standing about six minutes."

Fortunately, also, we have another account of this initial battle of the Revolution, in a joint letter,<sup>1</sup> written from Cambridge by Capt. Chester and his gallant lieutenant (afterwards Col. and Bvt. Brigadier General) Samuel Blatchley Webb, and addressed to the brother of the latter. Capt. Chester appears to have commenced the letter.

"Cambridge, June 19, 1775. Monday morn. 9 o'clock.

My dear Brother:

The Horrors and Devastations of War now begin to appear with us in Earnest. The Generals [*i. e.*, the general details] of the late engagement and present manoeuvres, you will doubtless hear before this can possibly reach you. However, as you may be in some doubt, I shall endeavor to give you some particulars which I hope may not be disagreeable, tho' it may be repeating. Know then that last Friday afternoon orders were issued for about 1800 of the province [*i. e.*, Massachusetts Province or Colony] men and 200 of Connecticut men to parade themselves at 6 o'clock, with one day's provisions, Blankets, etc., and then to receive their Order (nearly the same orders in Roxbury Camp also.) Near 9 o'clock they marched (with Intrenching tools in carts by their side) over Winter's Hill in Charleston and passed the intrenchments the Regulars began when they retreated from Concord and went to intrenching on Bunker's Hill which is nearer the water, & Castle & Shipping. Here they worked most notably and had a very fine fortification which the enemy never knew till morn. Then they [the British] began a most heavy fire from the Cop's Hill near Dr. Cutler's Church, & from all the ships that could play, continued

<sup>1</sup> *Correspondence and Journals of Samuel Blatchley Webb*, Collected and Arranged by Washington Chauncey Ford, 3 Vols., New York, 1893. This extract from Vol. I.

until near night. About one o'clock, P. M. we that were at Cambridge heard that the regulars were Landing from their Floating Batterys, & the alarm was sounded & we ordered to march directly down to the Fort at Charleston. Before our Company could possibly get there the battle had begun in earnest, and Cannon and Musket Balls were flying about our ears like hail, and a hotter fire you can have no Idea of. Our men were in high spirits. Your Bro<sup>r</sup> and I led them & they kept their Order very finely 2 & 2"

[Here Lieut. Webb takes up the story.]

My dear Brother. You will see by this the amazing hurry we are in. Capt. Chester is call'd of[f] and begs me to go on with this letter, which I'll endeavor to do—tho' if it appears incorrect and unconnected you must make proper allowance. After the Alarm, on our March down we met many of our worthy friends wounded, sweltering in their Blood—carried on the Shoulders of their fellow Soldiers—judge you what must be our feelings at this shocking Spectacle, the orders were 'press on, press on,'—our Brethren are suffering and will soon be cut off—we pressed on, and came into the field of Battle—Thro' the Cannonading of the Ships, Bombs, Chain Shot, Ring Shot & Double headed Shot flew as thick as Hail Stones—but thank Heaven few of our men suffered by them, but when we mounted the Summit, where the Engagement was,—Good God, how the Balls flew. I freely Acknowledge I never had such a tremor come over me before. We descended the Hill into the field of Battle,<sup>1</sup> and began our fire very Briskly. The Regulars fell in great plenty, but to do them justice they keep a front and stood their ground nobly,—twice before this time they gave way,—but not long before we saw numbers mounting the walls of our Fort, on which our men in the Fort were ordered to fire and make a swift Retreat—we covered their Retreat till they came up with us by a Brisk fire from our small arms,—the dead and wounded lay on every side of me, their Groans were piercing indeed, tho' long before this time I believe the fear of death had quitted every Breast—they now had possession of our Fort & four field pieces,—and by much the advantage of the Ground,—and to tell you the truth,—our Reinforcements belonging to this Province [Massachusetts] very few

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<sup>1</sup> Of this point in their entering upon the scene of action, Lieut. Webb, in another letter to his home, writes: "For my part, I confess, when I was descending into the Valley, from off Bunker Hill, side by side of Capt. Chester, at the head of our Company, I had no more thought of ever rising the hill again than I had of ascending to Heaven, as Elijah did, soul and body *together*."

of them came into the field—but lay skulking the opposite side of the Hill. Our orders then came to make the best Retreat we could,—we set off almost gone with fatigue, and Ran very fast up the Hill, leaving some of our Dead and Wounded in the field—we Retreated over Charleston Neck, thro' the thickest of the Ships' fire,—here some principle Officers fell by Cannon & Bombs,—after we had got out of the Ships' fire under the covert of a Hill—, near another Intrenchment of ours, we again Rallied and lined every part of the Road and fields—here we were Determined to Die or Conquer if they ventured over the Neck,—but it grew dark, and we saw them pitching Tents,—we retired to our Intrenchments & lay on our arms all night,—keeping vast numbers of our Troops out on Scouting Parties,—they [the British] keep up a constant fire from the Ships and floating Batteries all Night,—but few of them Reach'd us. But alas how Dismal was the Sight to see the Beautiful & Valuable Town of Charleston all in Flames, and now behold it a heap of Ruins—with nothing Standing but a heap of Chimneys,—which by the way remains an Everlasting Monument of British Cruelty and Barbarity—this Battle—tho' we lost it,—cannot but do Honor to us—for we fought with less numbers—and tho' they once or twice almost surrounded the Fort, we secured their Retreat,—but alas in the Fort fell some Brave Fellows—among the unhappy number was our worthy friend Dr. Warren, alas he is no more,—he fell in his Country's Cause,—and fought with the Bravery of an Ancient Roman, they are in possession of his Body and no doubt will rejoice greatly over it,—After they entered our Fort they mangled the wounded in a most horrid manner,—by running their Bayonets thro' them,—and beating their Heads to pieces with the Britch's of their Guns. In this Bloody Engagement we have lost William Rowlandson, Roger Fox, Gershom Smith and Lawrence Sullivan,—who we suppose fell (at least their Bodies) into the hands of the Enemy—their souls we hope in the happy Regions of Bliss, Wounded, Daniel Deming, Samuel Delling [Dillings?] Epaphras Stevens & Constant Griswold,—none of them Mortally,—are in a fair way, and likely to Recover,—to give you the exact number of the whole of the killed and wounded is impossible,—Opinions are various—and no returns yet made to the Council of War—but the best I can find out is about 120 of our men killed and wounded, perhaps there may be double that number,—I cannot say,—a few days we shall know exactly,—of the Regulars I doubt not there are many more lost than of ours—the truth of their numbers 'tis not probable we shall know,—the King's troops to the number of 2 or 3,000 are now en-



camped on the same Hill they were after the Battle of Lexington, have twenty field pieces with them, and lie under the Protection of the ships—our grand Fortification is on prospect Hill,—within a mile and a half of theirs—we have about three thousand men in it & 2-12 Pounders, 2-9 Do, 2-24 p<sup>r</sup> & 6-6 pounders—here we mean to make a stand,—should they prove victorious (which Heaven forbid) and get possession of this Hill,—we must retire before them & leave Cambridge to the Destruction of those merciless Dogs—but Heaven we trust will appear on our side,—and sure I am many thousands of us must fall before we flee from them.—Gage has said that the 19th of June should be made as memorable as the 19th of April is—this is the day, and I assure you we are properly on our Guard.

[Here endeth Lieut. Webb, and Capt. Chester resumes.]

“Monday, 11 o’clock.

“I have one moment’s Leisure again to Continue my Scrawl. Yesterday we had another Alarm & I wish it had not been a false one as it prov’d. Our men were Marching Down in much Better Order & better Spirits, for Prospect (alias Spectacle) Hill. We heard all the Light Horse with a Reinforcement enough to make 4,000 in all, were on their March from Bunker Hill to our entrenchments. But before we got half way Down there we were Order’d back again. Gen<sup>l</sup> Putnam wrote back from our fort that the Regulars had made no movement since last night.

“Our Retreat on Saturday was Shameful & Scandalous, & owing to the Cowardice, Misconduct & want of Regularity of the Province troops. Tho’ to Do them Justice there was a Number of their Officers & men that were in the fort and a very few others that did honor to themselves by a most noble, manly & spirited effort in the heat of the engagement & ’tis said many of them the Flower of the Province have sacrificed their lives in the Cause. Some say they have lost more Officers than men. Good Doc<sup>tr</sup> Warren, “God rest his Soul,” I hope is Safe in Heaven! Had many of their Officers the Spirit & Courage in their whole Constitution that he had in his little finger, we had never retreated. Many considerable companies of their men I saw that said there was not so much as a Corporal with them, one in Particular fell in the rear of my Company & marched with us. The Cap<sup>t</sup>. had mustered & Order’d them to March & told them he would overtake them directly, but they never saw him till next Day. A vast number were Retreating as we March<sup>d</sup> up & within a quarter of a mile of the Scene of Action. If a man was wounded 20 more were glad

of an Opportunity to carry him away, when not more than three could take hold of him to advantage. One cluster would be sneaking down on their Bellies behind a Rock & others behind Haycocks & apple trees. At last I got pretty near the Action & I met a considerable Company with their Officer at their Head retreating. I spoke to Lt. Webb, & told him it would not do to see so many going Back & that we must stop them. 'By all means' says he. I then enquired of the Officer why he went back. He made no answer. I told him to proceed if he Dare, he still went on. I ordered my men to make ready very Loud, & told him if he went another step he should have the fire of my whole Company. My men Declared they would fire if I ordered them. But the Poor Dogs were forced to come back like Dogs that had been stealing sheep. But, after the Retreat, when we came to rally & attempt to form again, we found it impossible, for they all most all said they had no officers to head them. In short most of the Companies of the Province are commanded by a most Despicable set of Officers, & the whole success of the Battle with them depends on their virtue; for almost all from the Cap<sup>t</sup>. General to a Corporal are afraid to set up proper martial authority, & say, as affairs are situated, they think their people will not bear it. But, in my humble opinion, they are very much in the wrong. Public business here goes on very dull—if anything of importance heaves up it must go thro' a long dispute in the Congress of near 200 members & then thro' a Committee of Safety & then a Committee of War & a Committee of Supplies, & by that means they are forever doing nothing."

Col. Grosvenor's letter shows that the American retreat from the Hill "was sustained by two Companies under the command of Cpts. Clarke and Chester."

At the beginning of the fight they were not engaged—having been stationed at Inman's farm, where the British landing was looked for. As they were marching upon the field of action, they met another company coming off, because it had lost its captain. Capt. Chester promptly halted them, and on learning the cause of their retreat, commanded "Follow us, then," which they did and fought until their ammunition was exhausted. One account says, that they demurred to re-entering the fight, until Capt. Chester threatened them that his men should fire upon them, when seeing the guns, at his order, leveled upon them, they concluded to obey—and their valor in the field more than atoned for their momentary, and, perhaps, natural hesitation.<sup>1</sup>

In fact the Wethersfield Company gained the commendation of all

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<sup>1</sup> *Hist. Address at Newington Centennial*, 1816, by Roger Welles, Esq., p. 34.

who saw its bravery on that memorable day; and it had previously been complimented by being selected (June 6th) as an escort to Gen. Putnam and Gen. Warren, President of the Congress, on their visit to Charleston in reference to an exchange of prisoners with the British. This was probably due to their excellent discipline and their uniform "wholly blue, turned up with red" which must have been in sharp contrast to the dress of the other irregular troops called hastily to the field.

The few letters of Capt. Chester, written at this time, bear evidence of the great good sense and soldierly qualities of the man; and we only wish we had more of them to quote from. His criticisms upon the army commissariat are frank, but not rebellious or unsoldierly in tone. He writes, under date of August 28:

"I cannot yet live to my mind. Our position is not a fifth part so good as when we lived from our own colony provisions. I care not how much of a Continental war it is, but I pray for Connecticut provisions. \* \* \* Half the time no sauce, no milk. \* \* \* The Congress allows no butter, chocolate, or coffee, or sugar, which our Colony allowed us. The pork is 'thin, poor, flabby stuff.' He goes on, 'I'll tell you how I intend to work the matter to Live Better. Brother Jed. Huntington, the Colonel, is stationed very near our Regiment. Jno. Trumbull is lately made Major of our Brigade, and is back again with us at Roxbury. Stephen Thayer is sutler for Huntington's Regiment. Park, a young Gentleman from Philadelphia is Deputy Quar Mas<sup>r</sup>, under Mifflin, who is Q<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup>, or Barrack Master General. As Mifflin is at Cambridge, Mr. Park is on our wing of the army. We five purpose to hire a Room, Kitchen and Chamber in a House at the foot of the Hill where we are encamp<sup>d</sup>, and hire a woman to wash and cook for us. My Lieutenant will be allowed to join us, if he is a clean fellow, & if he is not so, shall not be in our company. Here we intend to Live genteely with our waiters and Lodge in Tents."

During the Siege of Boston, discipline in the American camp became somewhat lax, and some soldiers decamped and went home, a course of conduct which was frequently condoned and abetted by their friends and relatives at home. This was very annoying to a man of Capt. Chester's character and sense of military duty, and he thus writes to one of his friends:

"The Country must uphold his Excellency and the army in this matter; and exert themselves in detecting and bringing to punishment all offenders. If a firm stand is not now made, we shall never have an army worth a fig."

Again, in one of his home letters (February 15th, 1776) he writes:

"Great complaints are here made by y<sup>e</sup> Generals of the want of Powd<sup>r</sup>, which impedes everything; they think that even the town stocks ought to be del<sup>d</sup> up to the Army, for if we can do nothing here this season, forty times the quantity in the Country will be of no use when the reinforcements arrive from England. If we can this Hornet's Nest now, we have everything to hope, if not we've everything to fear. The cause is General and Common. Why should Distant Colonies and towns carrying on a distant war, lay out for a district defense? You need not fear to Drive on the Salt Petre works vigorously.<sup>1</sup> Pray how go on the Powder Mills? We shall want their most vigorous exertions soon."

In a letter from Camp at Roxbury, Oct. 2, '75, he writes to an army friend:

"I was disappointed to hear of your selection of officers, in the manner you relate tho' I expected [to] hear——would fret. But these things do not last long. *Now is a time for every one to be above these little nice punctilios in military preferment and show to the world that we are all glad to serve our Country in any capacity they shall place us in.*"

This one sentence, which we have taken the liberty of italicizing, displays the character of the man and patriot, better than volumes of praise.<sup>2</sup>

The close of the year '75, was signalized by the daring, but unsuccessful, Quebec Campaign (September-December) under Arnold, in which many Connecticut troops were engaged. Details from the Second Regiment, Col. Spencer, were in this campaign, among whom were BENJAMIN CATLIN, Quartermaster; made prisoner at Quebec, Dec. 31, 1775, exchanged January 10, 1777; and JAMES KNOWLES, Ensign, in Capt. Hanchett's Company, taken prisoner, exchanged and later heard of as in the privateer service. Both these men were from Wethersfield and belonged to Capt. Chester's Company. ZION WENTWORTH was also in this expedition.

We have another letter from a Wethersfield man, which gives a picturesque account of the Bunker Hill engagement.

<sup>1</sup> Probably referring to Salt Petre works at Wethersfield in which Dan. Hinsdale and Samuel Boardman were partners, with others. In January, '76, Col. Thomas Belden "rec'd returns" of 543 lbs., May 22, 1776; in Aug., same yr., there was an account of 627 lbs. as returned for that month; in September, same year, the amount returned was 724 lbs.

<sup>2</sup> The letters from which we quote as to be found in the Mss. Archives of Washington's Headquarters, at Newburgh, N. Y., published in the *Mag. of Am. History*, 1882, pp. 125-127.



“Cambridge, June y<sup>e</sup> 19th, A. D., 1775.

“Loving Friend—I have again another opportunity to write to you, and to let you know that I and David are, through the goodness of God, in good health; although we have been the most exposed, to all human appearance, perhaps, that ever mankind could be, and be yet alive. It happened that the night after the 16th i<sup>st</sup> I was ordered by the General, as I was the ordily sergnt of the day, to draught out 28 able men, to join a party of about 1,000, to go down, under the command of Coln Prisscott, on Charlestown Hill, & there build a fort, which we undertook. We did not begin digging till about midnight, & then we had to finish s<sup>d</sup> fort before day, or we must all be cut of; for we were right under the ships’ cannons’ mouths, not an half miles distant from 18 ships of the liyne; & about sun rise the[y] began to play upon us, before we had done our brist work done; and the 3d fire killed one of our men out rite.

“We have great reason to think that our coming down to this dangerous place was a piece of treachery; for it is a little sort of an island, which gave them the chance to land all round us, and their ships to protect them. Their ships fired bombs, fuzees & chain shot, untill they sot Charleston all on a light fire; & the smoke of that vast fire was so thick, the first we knew, the Regulars landed under the smoke, and surrounded our fort so numerous, with their artillery, that fired upon us, back side of the bristwork, that [we] were oblidged to quit our quarter & retreat before our enemy, which consisted of more than 4,000. And on the retreatment, after the fort was taken, there was the cruelest battle that ever was fought in North America. The bullets flew so thick that there was no getting rid of them on neither side. As for ours, let them be where they could, the shiping could rake us just as they pleased. This dreadful battle held until after dark. Indeed it is not over yet. Each fortifications are firing at each other, until now; & God only knows when it will be disided. Our army is in continual alarm, and the Regulars are incamped in and near our fort, and our army is build[ing] a strong fortification on Winters hill, where we never mean to be disturbed, let it come as hot as will.

“As to the number killed on either side [I do not know?]; but it [is] credibly proved that we killed 5 where they killed one of [us]; & we cannot find as we have lost more than 40 or fifty and sum of them are our head Commanders. Y<sup>e</sup> noble General De<sup>t</sup> Warren fell in the fort, before that was left; & Coln Gardner is very much wounded, by a grape shot, which ’tis supposed he will die; & of [Soldiers?], their names are not yet known. Of our company there is 4 or five miss-

ing, to-wit: Wilson Rowlinson, and Gershom Smith & Lawran[ce] Sullivan, & Roger Fox, of Glastonbury; & whether they are killed, or wounded, the Lord only knows. It [is] s<sup>d</sup> they were the last that were in fort, after the Regulars had entred the fort; & it is s<sup>d</sup> they gave no quarter, nor took none. We have a good many wounded, but took none prisoner; for [we] were obliged to fight upon retreat. Their damd cannon, from the ship did all this mischief.

"As for their land forces, we can do just what we are a mind to with them. They never killed ten, with their small arms; but amazing sights cannon ball flying, that we could not do nothing. It is my humble opinion that they would not, nor never will, come out further [than] that ther shipping can defend them. They wold never [have] done any thing that day [if our men] was not sent by [the] cursed Tory commander to build that little blasted fort right under their noses, where they could not do no less than do what they did. We were allowed no cannon till after the battle was over, almost. Our company have great reason to thank God for covering our heads in the day of battle, & that we have lost no more forces. Capt. Chester's men were the first ordered [to] march forward to the relief of the fort, & they got within gun shot of the fort, when it was given up, where there was 4,000 regulars, all in gun shot of our company; and I will leave you to gess how thick the bullits must fly. Our Capt. Chester and [Lieut.] Webb are the finest officers reckoned [in] the whole army, for skill & courage; for they were in the fore front of the battle. Our Connecticut men, it is sd, killed more than three-quarters of them that were killed.

"But it is endless to numerate every thing that has happened this remarkable week, in this letter; but I shall give you a full account of things in my next, [which] will be by the next oppertunity.

"I beg you would rite to me from home, for I have heard strange things that have happened there, since we came away. I sent you a letter by Mr. Charles Caldwell, about a week ago & I am impatient to hear from you. I have heard from no one but from my wife. Daniel Deming has left one of his fingers in the battle, & one Samuel Deling [Dillings] was shot thro' the body, but not dangerous. Our men are all the rest well in health & high spirits, & they sware they [will] be revenged on them yet. David King has got well, all but his skin, [which] is all pealing [off] by the fever; & he desires me [to] rite in my letter to you concerning his welfare, & desires to be rembered to you and your family, & all other friends that should enquire after him. He says he wants a cheek shirt, and would be glad [if] you would send it to him.

"Give my compliments to all friends that ask after me; especially to Oliver Robbins. Excuse my bad adapted letter, for we are all in confusion, & it [is] my turn to mount the guard this day, with 18 men. So I must conclude, for want of room & time, & shall ever remain yr friend till death. Please to direct your letter to the Church in Cambridge, which is our quarters. Pr me,

[Superscribed]

BENJAM. CATLIN.

"To Mr. Samuel Boardman, Marcht,  
Att Wethersfield.

Pr favor, by Mr. Eliel Williams, of Stepney"

[now Rocky Hill.]

[This letter, reprinted from the *Hartford* (Conn.) *Daily Courant*, May 11, 1886, was found some months ago among many other papers, in the old Samuel Boardman house, on the east side of High Street, near the Common, in Wethersfield. Mr. Boardman was a merchant, doing a large business, and Sergeant Benjamin Catlin was a young man who had been in his employ, and who, after the war was over, was started in business, at Saybrook, by said Boardman. I suppose Catlin to have been a descendant of John Catlin, who was of Wethersfield as early as 1662. The Catlins of Harwinton are of the same stock. In the expedition of Arnold to Quebec, in the fall and winter of 1775, Sergeant Catlin was called a quartermaster. In 1776, Mr. Boardman, with Daniel Hinsdale, a Hartford merchant, engaged in the manufacture of saltpeter, then in great demand for making gunpowder. The firm name was Samuel Boardman & Company, and the works were at the south end of Broad Street, in Wethersfield.—S. W. A.]

[The Wethersfield Company, for a time at least during their stay, were well housed in old Christ Church in Cambridge, the historian of which thus speaks of them:

"The last regular services in Christ Church before the outbreak of the Revolution must have been held during the summer of 1774. All the next week, the church was closed, the shepherd fled, the sheep scattered. Then came the day of Lexington, the rush of the Minute Men to Cambridge, and in a few weeks the first arrivals of the seven-months volunteer regiments. One of the earliest of these regiments to report to General Artemas Ward, then the commander of the Provincial forces, was that of Gen. Joseph Spencer, the first of the levies from Connecticut. In his regiment was a fine company from Wethersfield, under command of Capt. John Chester. They had the then very unusual distinction of a uniform, 'wholly blue, turned up with red,' and whether from their appearance and reputation, or from mere good

fortune, they were assigned what must have been the best quarters in town—Christ Church. How they must have exulted when they visited their comrades, crowded like sheep into the rooms of the college buildings, or the private houses of Cambridge, and told of the high, ample pews, each a roomy alcove for a group of chums, of the organ, and of the relics of the Tories to maltreat at will.

“It is probable, however, that the greater part of the damage which the church sustained at this period was not inflicted by Capt. Chester’s men. The metal organ-pipes were undoubtedly removed and made into bullets, and some wanton firing of flint-locks may have been indulged in, as the bullet-scar in the porch seems to testify; but Chester was too much of a martinet, and his men had too much *esprit de corps*, to continue any wholesale destruction, even of Tory property. The Wethersfield company was evidently one of the best disciplined in the army; when an exchange of prisoners was made in June, this company was detailed as the escort, and ‘did honor to themselves, their officers and their country.’ On the eve of the battle of Bunker Hill, ‘one sub altern, one sergeant and 30 privates were draughted out over night from this company to intrench, and in the engagement next day, Capt. Chester was mentioned with especial credit. Another motive, too, must have deterred the militia from any serious mutilation of their quarters. John Pidgeon, the only proprietor of the church who espoused the Colonial side, had been appointed Commissary General to the forces, and the most careless raw recruit would think twice before giving cause of offense to an officer upon whom depended so much of his bodily comfort.”—*Christ Church, Cambridge. Some Account of its Hist. and Present Condition, Especially Prepared for Visitors, Cambridge, 1893.*—H. R. S.]

*Washington’s First Visit to Wethersfield.*—Wethersfield has reason historically to congratulate herself, in that she has *thrice* been honored by visits of the “Father of his Country.” His first visit was on June 30th, 1775, when on his way to take command of the army, at Cambridge. With him were Major-General Charles Lee, and other military officers. On the 22nd inst., Mr. Deane had written, from Philadelphia, to Mrs. Deane, at Wethersfield: “This will be handed you by his Excellency, General Washington, in company with General Lee, and retinue. Should they lodge a night in Wethersfield, you will accommodate their horses, servants, etc., in the best manner, at the taverns; and their retinue will, likely, go on to Hartford.” It is said that Stillman’s tavern, which stood where the present home of the heirs of the late Mr. Richard A. Robbins is, entertained some of Washington’s attendants.



Gov. Philip Skene, of New York, who had been arrested in Philadelphia, as a Loyalist, stopped here, the bearer of letters from Mr. Deane—while on his way, as a prisoner, to Hartford, in July, 1775. Another Briton, a prisoner likewise, was entertained by Mrs. Webb, April 1st, 1776. It was Major Chris. French, of the 22d Regiment of the Royal Army. French's diary says, referring to this event: "Dined with General Putnam, at Mr. Webb's, of Weathersfield. He [the General] is about five feet six inches high; well set, and about sixty-three years old; and seems a good natured and merry man."

Whether Washington called at the Webb house during his sojourn at Hartford, in September, 1780, is a matter about which there is some doubt; but the unwritten history is to the effect that he did. And, indeed, he would hardly have spent four days within four miles of Wethersfield without visiting that place.

During the year 1775, six regiments were raised by the State. In the Second Regiment (Col. Spencer), were commissioned JOHN CHESTER, as Captain; BARNABAS DEANE, as first and STEPHEN GOODRICH as second lieutenants; and CHARLES BUTLER, as Ensign. Chester, at this time, was Major of the Sixth Militia Regiment and Butler was Captain of the Troop of Horse, attached to the same regiment. At the July (special) session of the Assembly, Dr. JOSIAH HART, was commissioned Surgeon's Mate of Col. Parsons' regiment. He was afterwards full Surgeon; and, after the War, became one of the first settlers of Marietta, Ohio.

*Campaign of 1776.*—In January of this year, Capt. Chester received a merited promotion as Major in Col. Erastus Wolcott's Regiment,<sup>1</sup> raised for a brief term of service in the siege of Boston; and was one of the officers who first entered and took possession of the city, upon its evacuation by the British, March 17, 1776. In a letter to Governor Trumbull, February 19, 1776, Colonel Huntington recommended him for still further promotion, saying that he deemed him "a fit person to fill any suitable place that may be vacant in the army";

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<sup>1</sup> During the reorganization of the Continental forces before Boston (Dec., 1775—Feb., 1776), where soldiers were coming and going, Washington called for regiments from the New England States to guard the lines until the regular army, then in process of formation, could be well established. Conn. sent three regiments, under Cols. James Wadsworth, Erastus Wolcott and John Douglas. These reached Boston about the end of January and remained six weeks. Of these three regiments the only one whose rosters are on record is that of Col. Wolcott, in which were included the Wethersfield troops. It formed a part of the detachment which occupied Boston after its evacuation by the British.

and in June following, he was appointed Colonel of one of the seven regiments of General Wadsworth's Brigade, raised to serve under Washington at New York and until the end of the War. In preparing the defense of that city against the expected attack of the British, Col. Chester's regiment (numbering 4,335 men) was on the east side of the city. At the Battle of Long Island it was sent over to Long Island, and with that of Col. Wyllys', was stationed on the upper Flatbush road, where, being caught in the thick of the retreat, it narrowly escaped capture—and barely reached the American lines just as the British were about to surround them. On the evening of the same day (Aug. 29th) they had another similar experience. The retreat of the American army from Long Island having been determined upon to take place during the night, six regiments, of which *Chester's* was one, were stationed at the works, with orders to stay until the last and cover the retreat. Brooklyn Church was to be the alarm post, where the covering party were to concentrate in the event of an attack by the enemy during the night. About 2 A. M. Major Scammel, one of Sullivan's aides serving with Washington, mistook his orders and started the entire covering party towards the ferry. All the regiments had left their lines and were marching (joyfully, no doubt) down the main road, when Washington, who seemed to be everywhere during the night, met them and exclaimed in astonishment that unless the lines were immediately remanned, "the most disagreeable consequences might follow, as everything at the ferry was then in confusion." *Chester's* and the other regiments promptly faced about and reoccupied their stations till dawn—when Providence kindly provided a pall of dense fog, under cover of which the brave covering party got safely across the river.<sup>1</sup> *Chester's* command was among the very last to be ferried over.

In the retreat from New York City and through Westchester, *Chester's* was one of three regiments in the engagement at White Plains;<sup>2</sup> and had its full share of fighting in the succeeding New Jersey cam-

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<sup>1</sup> Major Tallmadge, of *Chester's* regiment, writes concerning this incident: "As the dawn of the next day approached, those of us who remained in the trenches became very anxious for our own safety, and when the dawn appeared, there were several regiments still on duty. At this time, a very dense fog began to rise, and it seemed to settle in a peculiar manner over both encampments. I recollect this peculiar providential occurrence perfectly well; and so very dense was the atmosphere that I could scarcely discern a man at six yards distance." He adds that, after leaving the lines by mistake, and receiving orders to return, "*Col. Chester* immediately faced to the right about and returned, where we tarried until the sun had risen; but the fog remained as dense as ever."

<sup>2</sup> Henry P. Johnson, *Campaign of 1776*, p. 273.

paign which resulted in the Battle of Pinceton,<sup>1</sup> and took to Peekskill, from Washington's camp, the news of the passage of the Delaware and the victory at Trenton.<sup>2</sup>

At the close of this eventful year, Col. Chester was recommended for a Coloneley in the new Continental Army; but "with reluctance" felt obliged to retire from the service to attend to "his family concerns, in 1777, greatly regretted, particularly by the Commander-in-Chief, who expressed a solicitious desire to retain him in the service."<sup>3</sup> But, though this was the end of a military career which promised much greater service for his country and higher honor for himself; yet the thirty-three remaining years of his life were full of usefulness, in various positions of public trust, to his country, his State and his native town.

It must not be supposed, however, that Col. Chester or his immediate command monopolized the service and honor of *all* Wethersfield men; for many others, individually, or in other military organizations, fought, suffered or labored, according to their several abilities, for their country's cause. Some were employed in the coast defense of the State, but most of them were in the "Connecticut Line" of the Continental Army.

Among the commissions issued by the General Assembly, at its May session, 1776, ROGER BULL was made Ensign of a company to be stationed at and about New London and New Haven; JOHN HANMER, was appointed first lieutenant of a company to be raised for "the defense of this and adjoining Colonies." Three regiments of volunteers were ordered to be raised, at this session. At its next session (Special June) two regiments of infantry were raised to reinforce the Continental Army for general service; and seven regiments for the "Continental Army in New York"; the following commissions to Wethersfield men being also issued for service in these last mentioned regiments viz.: John Chester, Colonel; Josiah Robbins, 2d Lieutenant, in 2d Co., Third Reg't. Vols.; Jonathan Buck, Ensign in same company; John Hurlburt, Jr., 1st Lieut. in 2d Co. in (Chester's) Sixth Battalion of Vols.; Chester Welles, Capt. of 3d Co. in same battalion; Edward Bulkley, 1st Lieut. in same company; Sol. Bulkeley, Lieut. 4th Co. 6th Mil. Regiment.

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<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, Part II, Letter to Joseph Webb, of Wethersfield, p. 98; also, orders from Gen. Lee, p. 143.

<sup>2</sup> *Heath's Memoirs.*

<sup>3</sup> Funeral Discourse by his Pastor, Rev. John Marsh.

Another most curious and interesting reminder comes to us, of those (in a double sense) hot days of August, 1776, immediately preceding the Battle of Long Island, when Connecticut was pressing all its militia and every available ounce of ammunition into New York City, then immediately threatened by the British fleet. It shows how a militia company of Wethersfield men came to New York, as "passengers" in a Wethersfield sloop, owned and commanded by one of their own number. What was their luck or their fate in the battle and the retreat that followed; whether any of them were killed or taken prisoners, whether any of them languished in old Sugar House Prison, or died in foul prison ships of the Wallabout, we have no means of knowing; but luckily their patriotism is vouched for by this "Passenger List"<sup>1</sup> of the sloop *Anne*.

At the October session (1776) eight regiments were raised, of one of which JOHN CHESTER was Colonel and SOLOMON WELLES, Lieut.-Colonel. In the Eighth Regiment (Northern Army) CHESTER WELLES was a Captain, and in the same battalion of volunteers were commissioned EBENEZER WRIGHT, JOSEPH A. WRIGHT and JOSEPH WEBB, as first lieutenants; and EZEKIEL P. BELDEN and ABRAHAM WRIGHT, second lieutenants; and SIMEON BELDEN, ensign; *probably* two other ensigns commissioned, SAMUEL SMITH and DAVID GOFFE, were also Wethersfield men.

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<sup>1</sup> A true Muster Roll of Passengers in the Sloop *Anne*, from Connecticut to N. York: Lemuel Deming, Master of sd Sloop.

Cpt. John Hanmor	1	Michael Brigden	21
Lt <sup>nt</sup> . George Stanly	2	Zadock Coleman, Saylor,	22
Ens. Josiah Goodrich	3	Ebenezer Curtis	23
Sgt. Bille Wells	4	Elizer Deming	24
Sgt. Francis Hanmor	5	Josiah Deming	25
Sgt. Hezekiah Butler	6	Aaron Deming	26
Sgt. William May	7	Daniel Deming	27
Corp <sup>l</sup> . Joseph Wells	8	Lemuel Deming, care of sd Sloop,	28
Corp <sup>l</sup> . Nathaniel Goodwin	9	Josiah Deming, the 2d	29
Corp <sup>l</sup> . Samuel Curtis	10	John Deming, Saylor	30
Corp <sup>l</sup> . Joseph Butler	11	Daniel Deming, the 2d	31
Steu <sup>rt</sup> Charles Francis	12	William Griswold	32
Drumm <sup>r</sup> . Joseph Stillman	13	Timothy Griswold	33
Fif <sup>r</sup> . John May	14	John Goodrich	34
Thomas Bunce	15	Joseph Goodrich	35
Daniel Buck (not to )	16	Timothy Hurlbut	36
John Burnham	17	Samuel Hanmor	37
J[ohn But]ler]	18	James Hanmor	38
[ ] B[ ]	19	Theodore Hale	39
J[ ] Jas Bac[ ]	20	Samuel Pierce	40



At the November (special) session of the General Assembly, four battalions were ordered to be raised, in which commissions were issued to SAMUEL WELLES, 1st Lieut. 2d Co., Second Battalion; NATHANIEL CHURCHILL, Ensign in the same; ROGER RILEY, Capt. of 1st Co., Third

Simeon Richards	41	Elijah Wells	57
Eli Richards	42	Samuel Wells	58
Alexander Rhodes	43	Samuel Wells, the 2d	59
Josiah Robbins	44	Josiah Wells	60
Wilson Rowleson	45	Gideon Wells	61
Nathaniel Shepard	46	Asa Wells	62
Willet Sage	47	Gershom Woolcott	63
James Standish	48	Solomon Woolcott	64
Epaphras Stoddard	49	Elisha Wells [Wolcott?]	65
Allyn Stillman	50	Josiah Woolcott	66
Nathaniel Stillman	51	Nathaniel Woodhouse	67
Moses Talcott	52	Elizer Wright	68
Aaron Tryon	53	Moses Wright	69
Ebenezer Talcott	54	William Wright	70
John Treat	55	Simon Willard	71
Seth Wells	56	Benjamin Weston	72

All theas to pay but:—

Joseph Wells	Josyah Goodrich	Gideon Wells
Samuel Curtis	Timothy Hulbort	Geshum Wolcott
Daniel Buck	Josiah Robbins	Solomon Wolcott
John Burnham	Jeames Standish	Elijah [Elisha?] Wells
Zadock Colman	Epaphras Stodder	Elizer Wright
Ebenezer Curtis	Seth Wells	Moses Wright
Lemuel Deming	Elijah Wells	Simon Willard.
John Deming	Samuel Wells	

Bill Wells & William May, Capt. Fortain [Capt. Luke Fortuné?] took.

Lemuel Deming, his Paper

August 23, 1776.

[The foregoing was copied by me, March 15th, 1886, from the original, which was found among some papers in the house once occupied by Samuel Boardman, a merchant of Wethersfield, who lived on the "Common," next north of Capt. John Smith's late residence. (Original now in possession of W. F. J. Boardman.)—S. W. A.]

The following without signature appears to be the account of a Wethersfield patriot going to Long Island to fight and of his return home. It is not at all improbable that the writer was one of the "passengers" in this very sloop *Anne*, carrying Capt. Hanmer's Militia Co. to New York:

"Wethersfield August Thursday 15th, 1776 I went on board for New York Sunday August 18 we got into New York August 27 Tuesday we went on Long Island that morning the fight was and Thursday night about 12 o'clock we retreated of the Island august 29 day at night Friday august 30 we came out of the city, up to hornshook hell gate and there encampt Tuesday December 3 we was sent out to the hospital at East Chester Thursday September 5 we lot out for home and got as far as Rye Friday September 6 we got to Newark [Norwalk] Saturday September 7 we got to New haven Sunday September 8 we got home."

Battalion; ELIJAH WRIGHT, Capt. of 3d Co., Third Battalion, and ISAAC GOODRICH, 1st Lieutenant. They participated in the affair at White Plains and other engagements in New York.

At the December (special) session, 1776, fifteen captains were commissioned, to command companies of volunteers, who were to join Lee's Army at Peekskill. One of these was HEZEKIEL WELLES, and with him, in the battalion commanded by Col. Noadiah Hooker, were JOHN BELDEN, Lieutenant, and CHESTER WELLES, Ensign.

"At a session of War Committee held Oct. 26, 1776, Capt. Elizur Goodrich, of Wethersfield, was permitted to export in the Sloop *Betsey* (himself master) 80 barrels of flour, 15 bbls. of pork, 6 oxen and 60 doz. poultry and make his returns in salt.—*Hinman's Revolution*.

"Session Feby. 28, 1778. Col. John Chester of Wethersfield & others shewed the Gov<sup>r</sup> and Council that in Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1778, they purchased of this state a number of salt pans &c to the value of £320 18 shilling 9d, and by reason of large holes in said pans, they were useless, and that they had been at a great expense in transporting said pans &c from the furnace in Salisbury, and asked to be released from said contract."

The principal results of the campaign of 1776 were the evacuation of Boston, by the British, March 17th; the Declaration of Independence, July 4th; the Battle of Long Island, 26th August; the Retreat through Westchester; the Battles of Fort Washington, the Battle of Trenton in December.

The following is a copy of a letter in possession of George L. Welles now deceased, a grandson of the writer, who had already been in Capt. Hezekiah Welles' Wethersfield company, at the siege of Boston, and in the battle on Long Island, and was soon to be in the affair at White Plains, N. Y.

"New York, September the 11, 1776.

"My Dear Friend:

"I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you, to let you know that I enjoy a good state of health, and have, ever since I came from home. I received your letters with pleasure, and was glad to hear that you are well. Brother Joseph [Wells] has been sick, and has set out for home, some days ago. Brothers Solomon Wolcott, Seth Wells, Elisha Wolcott [his brother-in-law] and Samuel Wells, have been sick; but have got better. I have nothing strange to write; only there has been a steady firing, with cannon and bombs, for this three days past; which has done but little damage.

"We expect a battle this day, and have for some days past. But God only knows how soon we shall be called to action. I know that God is able to save all that put their [trust] in him.

"I must conclude with sending my love to Fathers,' Mothers', Brothers' and Sisters' acquaintance. I should be glad to have a line from you, as quick as possible; who am your well wisher and Loving Husband,

ELIJAH WELLS."

*Campaign of 1777.*—During the previous campaign (1776) Col. Samuel B. Webb of Wethersfield had been on duty in New York City, and after June 21st, as aide to Gen. Washington, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. And, when Washington was authorized to select the officers of the "additional," or "Congress' own" regiments raised for the Continental service, he gave to Webb, the command of that from Connecticut. William T. Livingston, son of Gov. Livingston of New Jersey, was his Lieutenant-Colonel, but resigned in 1779, and was succeeded by Col. Ebenezer Huntington of Norwich, Conn. The men were enlisted for three years or the war, and were to be freemen, under 50 years of age. This regiment, on 14th April, 1777, rendezvoused at Wethersfield, and marched thence to Peekskill on the Hudson, where Gen. Putnam was in command, and where it formed a part of Gen. Parsons' brigade. On the advance of the British, and the loss, in October, of Forts Clinton and Montgomery, it crossed to the west side of the Hudson, and, for a time, served under Gen. Clinton. Early in December, Col. Webb commanded an expedition against the British stores and shipping at Setauket and Sag Harbor on Long Island; and, while crossing the Sound, the vessel in which he was, was attacked and captured by a British vessel. Capt. Edward Bulkeley, and Lieutenant (afterwards Captain) John' Riley, both of Wethersfield, were captured with him. Webb was exchanged January, 1781, and the other two in December, 1780. The other vessels of the expedition were run ashore and escaped capture. After Webb's capture, Lieutenant-Colonel Livingston took command, and the regiment was sent to reinforce General Sullivan, then making a demonstration against the British at Newport, R. I., with the expectation of aid from the French fleet.

The other Wethersfield men in this regiment were Lieutenant SAMUEL WM. WILLIAMS, promoted captain 25 March, 1778, and Lieutenant ROGER WELLES, who was commissioned as Second Lieutenant, January 1, 1777, in Captain Caleb Bull's company, and First Lieutenant, May 16, 1778, and promoted to Captain, April 9,

1780. Lieutenant Welles is found on the rolls for December, 1778, in Captain Joseph Walker's company, where he continued until April, 1779, when he is reported in Captain Thomas Wooster's company, who became a supernumerary officer and retired April 6, 1779, and his lieutenant resigned the same month, leaving Lieutenant Welles in command of the company, and the only commissioned officer until his promotion to Captain. Benjamin Weston, (N.) was made Sergeant March 10, 1777, Ensign; May 16, 1778, and resigned July 13, 1779.

*Col. S. B. Webb's Regiment, 1777-1781.*

*Non-Commissioned Officers and Musicians from Wethersfield.*

Serjeants.	Company.	Enlistment.	Term.
Elijah Boardman (N.)	Watson's	Apr. 22, 1777,	3 years.
Simeon Griffin (N.)	Bull's	March 1, "	War.
Thomas Holmes (N.)	Whiting's	" 1, "	War.
Daniel Williams (N.)	Hart's	Feb. 15, "	3 years.

*Corporals.*

Waitstill Dickinson (N.)	Walker's	July 21, 1778,	War.
Musician, John Kircum,	Walker's	July 21, 1778,	3 years.

Privates.	Company.	Enlistment.	Term.
Richard Bacon (N.)	Wyllys'.	May 8, 1777,	War.
Edward Brown (N.)	Hart's	Jan'y 25, "	War.
Curtis Crane (N.)	Wooster's	Feb. 28, 1778,	War.
Gideon Goff	Alden's	Feb. 28, 1777,	War.
Jacob Griswold	Bull's	June 1, "	War.
Jonathan Hand	Wyllys's	Feb. 21, "	War.
Joseph Hand	Bull's	Apr. 22, "	War.
Stephen Kellogg	Wooster's	Apr. 22, "	War.
Jonathan Miller	Wooster's	June 11, "	War.
Seth Montague	Wooster's	May 30, "	War.
Thomas Morgan	Wyllys's	May 31, "	War.
Zebulon Myggat	Bull's	July 2, "	War.
Joseph Rowlandson,	Bull's	June 8, "	War.
Asher Russell	Bull's	June 25, "	War.
Josiah Robbins	Hart's	May 30, "	War.
Thomas Stanley	Walker's	July 21, 1778,	War.
John Turner	Alden's	Apr. 28, 1777,	War.
Daniel Ward	Whiting's	Feb. 4, "	War.
Joshua Wells	Walker's	Feb. 26, 1778,	War.

Every soldier who enlisted was entitled to a bounty of \$20, a suit of clothes, and to one hundred acres of land at the expiration of his term of enlistment. Every Colonel was entitled to 500 acres, and inferior officers to an intermediate amount. In the case of Captain Welles, it may be stated in this connection that he received no land



during his life, but after his death, which occurred March 27, 1795, his widow, Jemima Welles, as administratrix, was granted April 22, 1796, a warrant, No. 2,349, for 300 acres of land, which was located in U. S. Military Tract of Ohio, upon the 1st quarter of the 2d Township in the 17th Range, now in Franklin County, Ohio, for which a patent was issued March 14, 1800. Doubtless there were others in this regiment from Wethersfield, but the above list contains the names of all whose residence is actually given at Wethersfield on the muster rolls. (*Conn. Men in the Revolution*, pp. 246-251). But in the majority of cases the residence of the soldiers is not given.

Colonel Henry Sherburne of Rhode Island commanded one of the "additional" regiments ordered by Congress for the Continental Army of 1777. Three of its six companies were raised in Connecticut, under Lieutenant-Colonel Meigs. The regiment was disbanded May 1, 1780, and the men distributed to other commands. Its record is identical with that of Col. S. B. Webb's, with which it was brigaded. The three captains from Connecticut were Abijah Savage of Middletown, Amos Stanton of Groton, and Elijah Blackman of Middletown.

The men from Wethersfield were as follows:—

Fifer.	Company.	Enlistment.
Richard Belding	Savage's	March 7, 1777.
Privates.		
Richard Beckley	Savage's	Feb. 26, 1778.
Jonathan Mygate	"	March 18, 1777.

Belding and Beckley were transferred to Col. S. B. Webb's regiment May 1, 1780, and Mygate was discharged in the spring of 1780. (*Conn. Men in the Rev.*, pp. 253-4).

There were some who enlisted in Colonel Webb's regiment only for the campaign of 1780. Those from Newington in this class were

	Enlisted	Aug. 7, 1780,	Discharged	Dec. 4, '80.
Joseph Andrus,	"	Aug. 18, "	"	Dec. 4, "
Joseph Atwood,	"	July 18, "	"	"
John Deming,	"	Aug. 18, "	"	Dec. 16, "
Joseph Churchill,	"	July 17, "	"	Dec. 4, "
John Hurlbut,				
	(Id., p. 253.)			

Captain CHESTER WELLES, of Wethersfield, also commanded a company in General Wolcott's brigade, under Putnam, at Peekskill, N. Y., from March to June of this year. The "Pay-abstract of this company, in Colonel Belcher's regiment of militia from the State of Connecticut—including one day's pay for every 20-miles' travel home," preserves the following names—mostly those of Wethersfield men—all "arrived [at Peekskill] Apl. 10; disch. May 22d.

Capt. Chester Welles	Sgt. Joseph Goodrich	Corp'l Richard Montague
1st Lt. Charles Butler	Sgt. Daniel Deming	Private Ozias Dix
2d Lieut. Isaac North	Fifer Abijah Porter	Private David Wright
Ensign Joseph Williams (?)	Corp'l Josiah Butler	Private John For[r]bs
Sgt. Simeon Deming	Corp'l Jesse Dix	Private Silas Hurlbutt
Sgt. Josiah Goff	Corp'l William Colton	

There were, also, during this year, a noticeably large number of enlistments of Wethersfield men in the first and second troops of Sheldon's Light Dragoons; as well as others (officers and men) in other cavalry regiments. Among these we may especially note Major BENJAMIN TALLMADGE and Captain EZEKIEL PORTER BELDEN, to whose personal efforts these enlistments were probably largely due. The former officer, it is said, equipped many of these cavalymen at his own expense.

JONATHAN DEMING and NATHANIEL CHURCHILL were commissioned by the Assembly, respectively as commissary and second lieutenant, and JOHN FRANCIS as ensign in "the battalion to be raised for the defense of the State"; and at the May session, HOWELL WOODBRIDGE was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the Sixth Militia Regiment, JOSEPH WEBB, First Lieutenant; and ABSALOM WILLIAMS, Ensign in First Company, and AARON HUBBARD, Ensign in Sixth Company, same regiment. At the August session of the Assembly, Williams was advanced to a first lieutenancy, his place as ensign being filled by WILLIAM WARNER, Jr.

Saltpetre works, for the manufacture of powder for the use of the army, were erected by Samuel Boardman and Daniel Hinsdale, in Broad Street—as appears from "a list of expenses, etc., connected with the building and operating" of the said works—20th January, 1776, to February 17, 1777. *Original* in possession of W. F. J. Boardman, of Hartford.

The important events of this year (1777) were the battles of Bennington, August 16; of Brandywine, 11th September, and of Germantown, 4th October, in which two engagements the advantage was with the British and gave them possession of Philadelphia; and the surrender of Burgoyne's army, 17th October, to General Gates.

*Campaign of 1778.*—Let us turn for a moment from the Wethersfield men in the field, to the Wethersfield men at home, and see what they were doing for the common cause. Enlistments, this year, went on slowly; the previous winter (1777-78), had been a hard one; small-pox had prevailed largely in some parts of the State. Townsmen generally, and those who had direction of public affairs, found their hands and hearts heavily burdened.

*Wethersfield Town Votes* show that, on 7th April of this year (1778), Messrs. Elisha Wright, Josiah Smith, Joseph Webb, Dan Ayrault, Sol. Wells, John Belden, John Robins (all of the First Society); Elias Williams, William Griswold, Benj. Morton (all of Stepney); Gideon Hunn, Charles Churchill, Eli Stoddard (all of Newington parish); and Sol. Dunham and Theodore Beckley, of Beckley Quarter, were chosen a committee to provide necessaries for the families of soldiers—as per a recent order of the General Assembly.

July 2d of this year, John Chester, Dan. Buck, John Wright, Justus Riley, Jacob Riley, Joseph Bulkeley, Wait Robbins, Chas. Churchill, James Welles, and Benj. Beckley, were chosen by town vote, as a committee to procure summer clothing for Wethersfield soldiers in the Continental line; and, on the 6th of the same month, the “captains of the Militia and Alarm List companies” were authorized to purchase the same from Will. May, at a sum not to exceed £5-6s therefor. Also, the Town was to furnish arms to such soldiers as were too poor to buy them; and a bounty of £20 was voted to each man “hired” to enter the Continental Army, or serve in the “Detachments of the Militia,” *i. e.*, those members of the militia, who, from time to time, might be drafted for some special duty.

And, again, 29th September, Elizur Goodrich, Appleton Robbins, Elijah Wright and James Stanley (First Society), Joseph Bulkley (Stepney), Martin Kellogg, Janna Deming and Lieutenant Levi Nash (Newington), were chosen a committee to procure clothing for soldiers; contributed articles to be forwarded to Middletown, Conn., and to Peekskill, N. Y. And, in following December, a rate of 6d per pound was laid to defray this expense.

The Assembly, at its October session, required the towns to choose committees to attend to the wants of officers and soldiers “gone to the war”; also, to provide one or more linen, or flannel shirts; one hunting shirt, or frock, one pair of woollen overalls, one or two pair of stockings and one pair of shoes for each officer, or soldier.

Mr. Ezekiel Williams, of Wethersfield, Commissary of Prisoners, was ordered to remove certain prisoners from the Hartford Court House. He had been appointed to this responsible office by the General Assembly in May of this year, and held it most acceptably during the whole course of the war.

On December 31st, 1778, a committee was chosen (consisting of John Belden, Josiah Smith, Josiah Goodrich, Stephen Willard, Eben Dickinson, Josiah Robbins, John Hanmer, Zach. Bunce, Jr., Ebenezer Hale, Peter Burnham and William Hurlburt (*First Society*); Joseph Bulkeley, Eben Goodrich, Moses Williams, Eliel Williams, Aaron Belden and Rich. Robbins (*Stepney*); Jacob Riley, Martin Kellogg, Jr., in the field; and a rate of 6d per pound was laid; the ordinary rate for Town expenses, at this time, being 1s 2f. per pound.

The principal events of this year were the acknowledgment, by France, 6th February, of the Independence of the United Colonies; and the battle of Monmouth, N. J.—a victory for us, 28th June; but the Southern States were still held and ravaged by the British General Clinton.

"A company, mostly of Wethersfield men, were on duty at White Plains, under Captain ELIJAH WRIGHT, in June of this year. Captain Wright and his first lieutenant, GOODRICH, had been commissioned by the General Assembly, at its November session, 1776, in the Third Company, Third Battalion.

"Their muster roll was as follows:

Elijah Wright, Capt.,  
Isaac Goodrich, 1st Lieut.,  
John Francis, 2d Lieut.,  
Benajah Boardman, Serg't,  
Elizur Talcott, Serg't,  
Selah North, Serg't,  
Fran. Nicholson, Serg't,

Privates:

Amasa Adams,  
John Andrus,  
Amos Buck,  
Thomas Bidwell,  
Levi Boardman,  
Jonath. Brook.,  
Elijah Brook,  
Elisha Baxter,  
Giles Bulkeley,  
David Bidwell,  
Ephr. Bidwell,  
Elizur Brooks,

Eben Curtis,  
Will Curtis,  
Nath'l Churchill,  
Matt. Covill,  
Asa Fox (transferred to Cont. Line),  
Roger Clapp,  
Justus Francis,  
Jesse Goodrich,  
Josiah Griswold,  
Matt. Hale,  
Evet ( ? ) Hollister,  
Steph. Hurlburt,  
James Hatch,  
Asahel Hollister,  
Levi Loveland,  
Alvan Montague,  
Nathan Nicholson,  
John Pitkin,  
Joseph Steele,  
David Stillman,  
Jesse Sanford,



Thos. Brooks,  
 Zion Wentworth,  
 Silas Hurlburt,  
 Elizur Hubbard,  
 Roswell Goodrich (*fifer*),  
 John Kirkham (*drummer*),  
 Thos. Stanley,  
 Reuben Taylor,  
 Asahel Taylor,  
 Joseph Taylor.

Geo. Tryon,  
 Elisha Welles,  
 Elisha Wetherwell,  
 Joseph Wheeler,  
 Asa Wright,  
 David Wright,  
 Joshua Welles,  
 Ezekiel Winchell,  
 Eben Wright,  
 Waitstill Dickinson.

Commissions issued to Wethersfield men this year by the Assembly were (at May session) to JOHN FRANCIS, as lieutenant of 2d Co., Alarm List, 6th Regiment, and NATHANIEL GOODRICH, Ensign.

Besides those who served in Connecticut State regiments, many Wethersfield men were enlisted in the regular, or Continental Army of the newly organized United States. The following list of 63 such, credited to the Continental line, from Wethersfield, was found by Charles J. Hoadley, Esq., State Librarian, among some papers belonging to William Williams, of Lebanon, Conn.

Ashbel Riley,  
 Abner Andrews,  
 Moses Belden,  
 Jonathan Miller,  
 Dick Loomis,  
 Thos. Wilson,  
 Simeon Holmes,  
 Waitstill Dickinson,  
 John Kirkham,  
 Asher Russell,  
 Ezekiel Winchell,  
 Stephen Dormonte,  
 Rich. Belden,  
 Steph. Kellogg,  
 Seth Montague,  
 Jared Bunce,  
 Dan. Ward,  
 Joshua Welles,  
 Joseph Rowlandson,  
 Caesar Freeman,  
 Simeon Griffin,

Elijah Boardman,  
 Hez. Konte [Nott],  
 Tho. Holmes,  
 Gideon Goffe,  
 Moses Hatch,  
 David Lindsay,  
 Abr. Belden,  
 Joseph Treat,  
 Benj. Dix,  
 Ichabod Goodrich,  
 Joseph Johnson,  
 John Forbes,  
 Rich. Bacon,  
 Curtis Crane,  
 Moses Griswold,  
 Sol. Williams,  
 Sam. Welles,  
 Sam. Kirkham,  
 Levi Latimer,  
 Edmond Weatherhead,  
 Will Clark,

Jonathan Dallibier [Delliber?],  
 Joseph Waters,  
 Jabez Sizer,  
 Chas. Treat,  
 Caleb Miller,  
 Will Morrison,  
 Dan. Sizer,  
 Peter Mohawk,  
 Sim. Griffin,  
 Tho. Morgan,  
 Zebulon Mygatt,  
 Edward Brown,  
 John Dowl (?),  
 Joshua Cone,  
 Josiah Robbins,  
 Will Ware [Weir?],  
 Asa Andrus,  
 Isaac Palmer,  
 Jared [?] Goodrich,  
 Eben Stoddard,  
 Sam. Weaver.

Some on this list were officers, some had served in the State regiments; many were from families prominent in the town to-day. ABNER ANDRUS was a *slave*, freed by John Wright and Luke Fortune, on condition of serving in the army. CAESAR FREEMAN, also a *slave*, was freed by Elias Williams, on the same condition, as were others, whose names do not here appear.

At the January (Special) session of the General Assembly, this year, JOSEPH WEBB, was made a commissioner for Wethersfield, to receive subscriptions to the Continental Loan; and Colonel Chester was appointed as a committee with General Wadsworth and Colonel Pitkin, to adjust accounts with the Lead Mine at Middletown. At the May session, BARNABAS DEANE & Co., bought of the Governor and Council of Safety, "a number of small cannon, now at the furnace at Salisbury," and the Legislaturè granted them liberty to bring said cannon to Wethersfield."

*Campaign of 1779.*—The strain of a war now in its third year began to be heavily felt by the people at large. The first ardor of encounter had died away, the country had "settled down to business"; there was a scarcity of clothing and provisions in the army; some of the soldiers in the field were getting tired; others were nearing the end of their terms of enlistment; some few were deserting—and the burden of keeping the ranks full and the families of the soldiers supplied with the necessaries of life, evidently bore heavily upon those at home—as may be seen from the general tenor of the "Town's Votes." Yet there was no flinching—at home or in the field.

February 8th, Geo. Stanley and Justus Riley (*First Society*); Joseph Bulkeley and Josiah Grimes, (*Stepney*); Charles Churchill and Josiah Willard (*Newington*); Enoch Kelsey (*Beckley's Quarter*), were appointed a committee to procure soldiers' blankets; and a special tax of 2*d* per pound raised for the purpose.

March 29th, 1779, Elizur Goodrich, Ephraim Williams, John Robins, Jr., and Stephen Riley, were *added* to the Committee for providing for soldiers' families, with a special tax of 2*d* per pound.

June 21st, 1779, Geo. Stanley, Wm. May, Aaron Hosford, Josiah Grimes, Jr., Josiah Willard, Chas. Churchill and Sol. Dunham, were appointed a committee to provide clothing for the Town's quota of soldiers in the Continental army, and a tax of 2 *shillings* per pound laid to raise the means to pay for the same. Josiah Collins was added to the Committee, August 10th following.

On this later date, also, a bounty of £100 in Continental money was voted by the Town to each soldier drafted for service in the Continental Line, or in either of the two battalions raised by this State, to serve until the first day of March next, by himself, or by a substitute accepted by the Muster-Master. A rate of 2*s* per pound was laid to defray this expense; which rate, in December, was raised to 3*s* per pound.

At its May session, this year, the Assembly commissioned JOHN FRANCIS, Lieutenant to one of "the two regiments now to be raised." CHARLES DIX, Lieutenant in 1st Alarm List, 6th Reg't. JACOB DIX, Ensign.

This *Alarm List*, was a *Militia Reserve*, established by the General Assembly in Dec., 1776, to be formed in every town in the State, of such males, between the ages of 16 and 60, who (for various reasons), were not mustered in the militia train-bands. Many such had previously belonged to the militia—some had even been commissioned and non-commissioned officers of militia, and were supposed to be "willing and able to fight in defense of their country." The *Alarm List* embraced almost every male in the State (members of the Council, the House of Representatives and the American Congress, Treasurer and Secretary of State, officers and students of Yale College, ministers of the Gospel, negroes, Indians and mulattoes *excepted*). Its members were required to find their own equipment, to hold themselves ready in case of an alarm, choose their own officers; and each company was to consist, as nearly as possible, of 64 privates; though if they could not make up 30, including officers, they were to be joined to the company of some other town. In active service they were to be under command of the field officers of the respective militia regiments in whose district the company was located; and they were under the same service regulations as the militia—and their members, like the militia men, could, if drafted, procure a substitute, or exemption on payment of £5 to the Town Treasurer, within a month. By a division into four equal classes—a most equitable division of duty was secured. Persons over 50 years of age, and *millers, ferrymen* and such as were deemed necessary to the public convenience, were not called out of town, but performed a "home-guard" duty. The Reserve was formed from the different regiments in a military district. In the district to which Wethersfield belonged—the Sixth Militia—one-fourth of the regiment were used as minute men.

The British, then in possession of Rhode Island with a large naval force, and threatened by the approach of a French fleet, were heavily re-inforced at Newport by another fleet, having received intelligence of the French fleet, sent to Newport a large body of re-inforcements in a fleet. Both fleets commenced manœuvring to obtain advantageous position, during which period a violent storm arose which disabled and dispersed both. General Sullivan, finding that he should be unable to dislodge the British from Newport, withdrew to the north end of the Island of Rhode Island, on

which Newport is situated, was pursued, overtaken, and followed by the severe battle at Quaker and Butt's Hills, August 29, 1778, when the British attack was repulsed. During the night the American Army crossed over to the main land. Lieutenant-Colonel Livingston and his regiment were particularly commended for their gallant conduct. The regiment remained in Rhode Island through the year 1779, and marched to winter quarters, at Morristown, New Jersey, for the winter of 1779-80. The British evacuated Newport in the Autumn of 1779.

Gen. Wayne's capture of Stony Point, on the Hudson, July 15, and Paul Jones' great naval victory in the *Bon Homme Richard* over the *Serapis* were the most important engagements of this year.

*Campaign of 1780.*—In the spring of this year, Col. S. B. Webb's regiment was assigned to Gen. Stark's Brigades, Lieut.-Col. Huntington commanding. It was present at the battle of Springfield, N. J., 23d June, and with the main army on the Hudson during the summer. Upon a memorial of Col. Huntington, the Assembly of Connecticut on the second Thursday of May, 1780, adopted the regiment as one of the "Connecticut Line," and a committee of Congress in Camp Preakness, N. J., approved the measure June 23, 1780. It was designated the Ninth Regiment. (*Conn. Men in the Rev.*, p. 245). It went into winter quarters during the winter of 1780-81 with the division at Camp "Connecticut Village," above the Robinson House opposite West Point, a mile from the river. At this camp the regiments of the "Connecticut Line" were consolidated into a new formation, which had been ordered by Congress, and went into effect Jany. 1, 1781. Col. Webb's and the Second regiments were consolidated into the Third, under the command of Col. Webb, now (by exchange) at liberty.

*Capt. Welles and his Letters.*—When Gen. Lafayette's Light Infantry Corps was organized in 1780, Capt. ROGER WELLES, of Wethersfield was assigned to one of the Connecticut companies. Capt. Welles wrote to his father, Solomon Welles, of Wethersfield, Sept. 9, 1780, from the "Light Infantry Camp, near New Bridge," as follows:—

"Hon'd. Sir:

"I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your letter by Capt. Williams, which I should have done long since had my situation in the Reg't. been such as it usually was; but the most of the time during the present campaign I have been detached from the main army, among those who have acted as Light Troops; and am now with the established Corps of Light Infantry, and have been constantly on the wing, which has prevented my writing frequently. \* \* \* Nothing material has



happened of late. A few days since a part of the army went to Bergen foraging, and drove cattle from within gunshot of the enemy's works, without their firing a shot, and have eight or ten days laid in the English neighborhood, within three miles of Fort Washington, without any molestation. The enemy, by their suffering our army to range and scour the country within their lines of all the cattle and forage, confess a want of enterprise or an inferiority of force. News we have none that I can give the particulars of. Two or three days ago it was reported that Gen. Gates with his army near Charleston in Caroline had unexpectedly fallen in with the British army, on which a severe action ensued; that our army finally gave way and retired from the field with loss, but accounts since are more favorable. This is Camp news."

On Sept. 22d, 1780, Capt. Welles wrote from "Camp Tappan" to his father, of the generosity of Gen. Lafayette, as follows:—

"The Marquis, who commands the Light Infantry, has been so generous as to *present* each officer with a genteel sword, a rich epaulet, and cockade, and red and black feather, as marks of distinction for his Division. And now has on hand a quantity of superfine broadcloth, a suit of which, together with its trimmings complete, will be delivered to all the officers in his Division for four guineas each, which is thought to be very little more than one third its value."

He then goes on to speak of his necessities and of the great depreciation of the paper currency at that time, as follows:—

"But I am not so happy as to be possessed of either paper or hard money of my own, however have been fortunate enough to borrow it, which I have ventured to do rather than lose the opportunity of procuring clothes at so cheap a rate at this difficult time.

"And now, Sir, emboldened by past favors, I have a very particular one to request at this time, which is that of about eighteen hard dollars to repay what I have borrowed, or an equal sum in paper at the rate of 70 or 75 for one, which it goes at here current. I expected to have received something before this from the State, of the money kind, but it seems what they have done does not relieve our present necessities."

At the end of that year's campaign Capt. Welles wrote, Dec. 4, 1780, from "Camp Highlands," to his father, in part as follows:—

"The Corps of Light Infantry was last week dissolved, after wasting the campaign in manœuvering, to the great mortification of the *Marquis*, whose expectations were greatly raised from his honorable command. But he has only to regret that he has had no opportunity to distinguish himself. We yesterday removed from West Point to this place,

which lays between the Point and Fishkill, about one mile East of the River, between two high mountains, where we are to hut."

At this place the soldiers of the "Conn. Line" built good huts, getting the logs and timber from the woods, and the Camp became known as the "Connecticut Village," or "Connecticut Huts." The winter of 1780-81 was here quietly passed; although officers and men suffered from the long delay in adjusting their pay accounts. A general reduction was ordered in the number of regiments, and the eight from Connecticut were reduced to five. The new formation went into effect January 1, 1781. The ninth regiment was incorporated with the second and became the third in the new arrangement, under the command of Col. S. B. Webb. There were nine companies in this regiment, and four of the nine were commanded by Captains from Wethersfield, viz.: Roger Welles, Edward Bulkley, John Riley, and Samuel William Williams. The term of service was from January 1, 1781, to January 1, 1783.

"One of the last incidents of the year 1780 was an attempt made by Col. Humphreys to capture Sir Henry Clinton, or the German General, Knyphausen, at New York. With Capt. ROGER WELLES, two other officers and about forty men, he went down the Hudson, December 25th, in the hope of surprising one of the generals at his quarters in the city. The wind, however, as Heath tells us, rose freshly from the northwest during the night, and the three boats of the expedition were driven past the Battery. A landing being impossible, they slipped by the enemy's shipping in the harbor, went through the Narrows, and finally made their way unobserved to Brunswick, whence the party returned by land to the army on Jan. 1st. The undertaking was a daring one, but Humphreys had had some experience in such warfare, as he accompanied Col. Meigs on his famous Sag Harbor expedition in 1777, and in 1778, himself took a party across the Sound and burned some supply vessels.<sup>1</sup>

There were "water guards," so-called, stationed on the Hudson River, at West Point and at Verplanck's Point to watch the river to prevent any surprise from the enemy below. Capt. Welles was entrusted with a command in this service in the winter of 1780-81. Gen. Washington wrote to Major-General Heath, who was stationed at West Point, a letter dated Jan. 3, 1781, of which the following is an extract: "As I conceive it will be necessary for the security of the posts below, and to prevent the enemy from attempting a surprise, to

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<sup>1</sup> *Maj.-Gen. Heath's Memoirs* (Boston, 1798), 268, and *Yale in the Revolution*, 313.

have a captain's command for the water guard, I would have Captain Welles continued in that service with his detachment."

Gen. Washington wrote again to Gen. Heath, Feb. 18, 1781, as follows:

"As Captain Welles is the officer who properly commands Webb's Light Company, you will order him to join the Light Corps with such men as belong to the regiment, and you will be pleased to relieve him with an officer well acquainted with boat service, as after the river is clear of ice, vigilance on the water will be more than ever necessary."<sup>1</sup>

Among the military commissions granted by the General Assembly at its January (Special) Session, this year, were one to JOHN FRANCIS, as Lieutenant of the 1st Co., and to DAVID DEMING, as Lieutenant of 2d Co. in the first of the two regiments being raised at this time.

At its April (Special) Session, the following were commissioned JOHN FRANCIS, Captain of 2nd Co., Alarm List, 6th Regt. JOHN WOODHOUSE, Lieut., and SAM. WOODHOUSE, Ensign.

*Washington's Second visit to (or passage through) Wethersfield.* In September, 1780, Gen. Washington again passed through Wethersfield with Gens. LaFayette, Knox and Hamilton, on his way to Hartford, where he met the Count Rochambeau and Admiral the Chevalier de Terney, with their suites, in consultation upon the conduct of the war. [It may be that it was on this second visit to Wethersfield that Washington and suite came by way of Farmington and the parish of Newington. And this conjecture would enable us to harmonize the event with a tradition in the latter town that Gens. Washington and Lafayette were once handsomely entertained *en route*, by Capt. CHARLES CHURCHILL, at his fine mansion there; and that all of the four great ovens in the house were taxed to their full capacity upon that occasion! It was, also, at this time, probably, that the interview occurred with Capt. Nathaniel Stillman, of Wethersfield, who had formerly been Captain of one of the companies of Washington's Life Guards, which is thus related by the Captain's great grandson, Thomas H. L. Talcott, of Glastonbury, in the *Conn. Quarterly*, Vol. III, p. 315,<sup>2</sup> as told, he says "by my father Asa, in nearly, if not quite, the same words."

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<sup>1</sup> *Mass. Hist. Col.* 5th Series, Vol. 4, pp. 187, 189.

<sup>2</sup> Asa Talcott, grandson of Capt. Stillman, and father of the Thomas H. L. Talcott, who gives the story to the *Conn. Quarterly*, was a native of Glastonbury, and after he was eight years old he lived with his grandfather Stillman in Wethersfield.

"One day, while we were at dinner, a post horn sounded a call at the gate. Grandfather said: 'There's a call for you, Asa.' Upon going to the door, I found a trooper on horseback who asked 'Does Capt. Nath'l Stillman live here.' I said he did, and he asked 'Is he within?' I said 'He is.' He said 'I would like to speak with him.' I went in and said, 'Grandfather, there is a trooper out there who asked for you.' Grandfather got up, and said 'Gen. Washington is coming. Thank God, I shall see him again!' I followed grandfather to the door; the trooper made a military salute and asked 'Is this Capt. Nath'l Stillman?' Grandfather said, 'It is.' The trooper said, 'I bear you the compliments of Gen'l Washington, who wishes to meet you at the Church in half an hour.' Grandfather said, 'I will be there.' The trooper again saluted and rode away down the street. Grandfather went in, shaved, dressed and put on his cocked hat, and went down the street. I started to follow when Grandmother called me 'Asa, where are you going? Your Grandfather don't want boys tagging after him!' Grandfather said, 'Let him go, he may never see Gen. Washington, if he don't see him to-day.' So, I followed, and when we got to the Green, in front of the Church, there were quite a number of boys with us. Soon we saw a great cloud of dust way down the street.<sup>1</sup> Grandfather said, 'Now boys, stand back, Gen. Washington is coming.' The company rode up and Gen. Washington stopped a few feet from Grandfather, and dismounted and they clasped their arms around each other and cried. After talking a few minutes, Gen. Washington said, 'I want you to come to Hartford and stay with me to-night.' Grandfather said, 'I will follow you inside an hour.' Gen. Washington mounted his horse and threw some small change to the boys, saying, 'There lads, is something to remember Gen. Washington by.' I picked up several pieces, when one boy said, 'I haint got any, Asa.' I gave him one, then another came and I gave all away—the last to a little boy. Washington was watching me, though I did not know it, and when I had given all away, he said, 'Captain Stillman, whose boy is that?' Grandfather said, 'He is a grandson of mine.' General replied 'He's a chip of the old block. Come here, my lad.' I went to him, and he gave me seven pieces and said, 'Now, don't you give them away, keep them to remember Gen. Washington by.' They then rode away and Grandfather went home and in a few minutes started for Hartford, and came home the next day."—*H. R. S.*]

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<sup>1</sup> Washington, on this occasion was accompanied by his suite, and a guard of 22 dragoons.



*State and Town Action with Reference to the War.*—At the October Session, Jonathan Stoddard, Capt. 5th Co., Alarm List, 6th Regt.; Ebenezer Dickinson, Ensign; Elias Beckley, Lieut. 8th Co.; Joseph Churchill and Elizur Hollister, Lieutenants in 6th Co., same regiment.

The State's quota called for three years service or during the war, was 4,248 officers and men.

At the Assembly, November (Special) Session, 575 officers and men were ordered to be raised, for service at Horseneck, to serve until March 1st, 1782; 1,000 men were also detached from the Militia to serve at same point. Eleven men (including one light horseman) formed Wethersfield's quota to guard the western frontier—Lieut.-Col. Beebe's regiment.

A lottery of \$3,000,000, to redeem Continental bills of Credit, was ordered to be drawn at Hartford 20th May, 1782, to be paid in *new* Continental bills, one of which was to be reckoned as worth 40 of the former. ELISHA WILLIAMS, of Wethersfield, was one of the five managers of this lottery chosen by the State.

The Town, on June 19th, chose Elijah Wright, James Latimer, Chester Wells, John Robbins, Robert Welles, Jr., Sol. Dunham, Charles Churchill, Benj. Wright, Thos. Belden and Elisha Williams, a committee to fill up the Wethersfield quota of the "Connecticut Line of Infantry in the Continental Army." On the 26th of same month, James Stanley was added to this committee; and a bounty of £6 was voted, in addition to that allowed by Congress. A special tax of 6*d.* was also laid to meet this expense.

There were, at this time, two train bands in the First Society, No. 1 being the Broad Street Company and No. 2, the High Street Company. Company No. 3 was at Stepney; No. 4, at Newington, and No. 5, at Beckley Quarter. A military department had long previously been assigned to each; and at the meeting in question, collectors were chosen for each department, respectively, as follows: Appleton Robbins, Gershum Wolcott, Dan Warner, Josiah Willard and Ezekiel Kelsey.

This year of 1780, proved one of the most trying to the patriot cause. The country had become impoverished by previous heavy drains upon men and means; the Continental currency had sadly depreciated in value; defeat and tory machinations were working trouble in the South, and Arnold's defection had, for the moment, staggered the heart of the whole country. Fortunately, the patriotism of the North stood firm, under the impassioned appeals of Washington and his advisers; and the danger, though great, was averted.

The following orders passed by the Assembly, evidences how critical the condition of affairs was: 2,520 men were raised for three months' service in the Continental Army from July 15th, next; 1,500 men additional to join the Connecticut battalion of Continental Line to serve until December next (of which Wethersfield's quota was 32), these went to Greenwich, Conn., to serve in Cols. Welles' and Beebe's regiments. And twelve armed boats were to cruise in L. I. Sound. All who enlisted in 1779, were to serve until January 1, 1780.

In May, of this year, George Butler was permitted, by the authorities, to ship 100 bushels of corn in his vessel, and bring back salt from Bermuda; and in the same month, Barnabas Deane, John Wright, Justus Bailey and William Griswold, co-partners ["merchants in company"] and ship builders, obtained permission to export 5,000 lbs. sugar, 100 lbs. coffee, and 100 gallons of rum to New Jersey, by land, notwithstanding the embargo then existing; and to bring back iron for their ship building. 3,000 bbls of *shad* were ordered to be salted for the army's use.

Militia appointments by the Assembly, in May of this year, included the following Wethersfield men: Stephen Goodrich, Captain; Isaac Goodrich, Lieut., and Elisha Goodrich, Ens. in 3d Alarm List Co., 6th Regiment; John Francis, Captain; Geo. Stanley, Lieut.; Isaiah Goodrich, Ensign in 2d Co., same regiment; Timothy Hale, Captain (Glastonbury?); Benj. Smith, Lieut.; and Benj. Stevens, Ensign in 3rd Co., same regiment.

*Campaign of 1781.*—This opened discouragingly for the patriot cause. The country had not recovered from the defeats and mistakes of the previous year, or from the depression caused by Arnold's treachery; some of the States were apathetic, and Congress impatient, the stress of the financial situation was acute, and the American army and their French allies seemed, by the shifting events of the war, to be restricted to inaction. Washington, however, was ever alert with a desperate courage, seeking everywhere an opening to strike a vital blow at the enemy, without imperilling the already wavering safety of his own army; and seeking especially to avail himself of the aid of the large fleet and the valuable reinforcements sent by France—and which hitherto he had been unable to bring into action. Feeling the importance of a personal consultation with the Count de Rochambeau, then at Newport, in order to discuss and determine upon some questions of strategy which had been the subject of their first, but unsuccessful, interview at Hartford during the previous year, he gladly accepted a

renewed proposal from the Count to meet him again, in the spring of this year, 1781. But, as the Connecticut Legislature was then in session at Hartford, Washington, who had the choice of selection of both time and place of meeting, was probably induced, by his pleasant recollections of Wethersfield on his two previous visits, to select that village as affording more quiet and freedom from publicity than the busy capital of the State.

Accompanied by Gen. Knox and Gen. Duportail, one of his French allies, Washington left his headquarters at New Windsor, on the Hudson, according to his diary, on the 18th of May.

"May 18th [Friday]. *Set out this day for the interview at Wethersfield with the Count de Rochambeau and Admiral Barras. Reached Morgan's Tavern, 43 miles from Fishkill Landing, after dining at Col. Vanderburg's.*"—DIARY.

"19th [Saturday]. *Breakfasted at Litchfield, dined at Farmington, and lodged at Wethersfield, at the home of Joseph Webb.*"—DIARY.

Proceeding from Farmington, he came first to Hartford, where amid a large concourse of citizens, he was received by Gov. Trumbull, duly saluted with 13 guns, and escorted to Wethersfield by the militia companies of Wethersfield and of Hartford, commanded by Capt. Frederick Bull. This entry into Wethersfield must have somewhat disturbed the usual Saturday night serenity of that village (for it must be remembered that at that period the Sabbath commenced with the sunset of Saturday); but it was probably considered as a military necessity, and conducted with all the decorum and quietness possible under the circumstances.

20th [Sunday] the DAIRY continues, "*Had a good deal of private conversation with Gov. Trumbull, who gave it to me as his opinion [and Washington, from long experience of the Governor—'Brother Jonathan,' as he familiarly dubbed him—was accustomed to value his opinions] that, if any important offensive operations should be undertaken, he had little doubt of our obtaining men and provision adequate to our wants. In this, Col. Wadsworth concurred.*"

Col. Wadsworth of Hartford, acting as Commissary to the French allied troops, was next to Trumbull, a man on whom Washington eminently relied, in every emergency.

As the French officers from Newport had not yet arrived, it is evident that Washington siezed the opportunity which the day afforded of quiet consultation with these valued friends, and officials; and also in gracious acceptance of the social attentions which the presence of such distinguished guests naturally called forth, from the citizens of

the town and neighborhood. Though his *Diary* does not mention it, yet that of Gov. Trumbull supplies the facts that the weather was fair, and that he accompanied the General to the morning service at the Church. Tradition records that a message was sent to the General that the congregation would accommodate itself to his convenience in the matter of the hour of service, to which he emphatically replied, "at the usual time. I don't wish to have the service of God put off to accommodate me."<sup>1</sup>

The Rev. Dr. Marsh preached that morning, as we doubt not, to a full house, from the text of *Matt. V, 3*. "Blessed are the poor in heart, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven"—and we may be sure that from his earnest lips some words of comfort fell upon the heart of the sorely-tried soldier and his faithful advisers. Certain it is, that the choir—which then, as ever since—was esteemed the finest in New England (out of Boston?), did their best on that eventful morning; for, as they sang, the General arose in his place and with eyes steadfastly fixed upon them, remained standing until the last note died away upon the ear.<sup>2</sup>

The next morning, 21st [Monday], continues the DIARY, "*Count de Rochambeau, with the Chevalier de Chastellux, arrived about noon; the appearance of the British fleet under Admiral Arbuthnot, off Block Island, prevented the attendance of Count de Barras.*"

This Monday was a busy day. In the morning, Gen. Washington, his suite and the intimate friends who were with him, rode to Hartford, to receive with due form and ceremony, Count Rochambeau and his suite; and then accompanied them, with the same militia escort as before, to Wethersfield. The remainder of the day must have been mostly spent in getting their distinguished visitors comfortably settled in the quarters which had been arranged for them at Stillman's Tavern—which stood on the site of the present Richard A. Robbins house—and where the high contracting parties, with their suites and some of the most prominent citizens all dined together. In the evening, Gen. Washington and suite—and, probably, also—the French officers attended a concert at the church (most likely a service of sacred song) tendered by the choir in delicate acknowledgment of the General's very marked appreciation of their singing on the Sabbath previous—

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<sup>1</sup> On authority of Mr. John Williams, father of Mrs. Mary D. McLean.

<sup>2</sup> It need not be imagined that the general in thus rising yielded unconsciously to the magnetism of the lovely faces turned towards him from the choir gallery, or the charm of their united voices; but, probably, as he was an Episcopalian, he conformed to the custom of that denomination when praising the Lord.



and if the style of music may have seemed too sombre for the gay Frenchmen's taste, they had at least the pleasure of feasting their eyes upon the many winsome maiden faces, which beamed shyly upon them from the singers' gallery, and from the surrounding pews.

While at Wethersfield, Washington wrote to LaFayette in regard to the plan of campaign which he and Rochambeau had in contemplation, but this letter was intercepted by the British; again, in a letter written, also from Wethersfield, on the 23d May, to the Chevalier de la Luzerne, he states his desire to hear from Count de Grasse, then in command of the French fleet, and alludes to the presence of the British fleet between Block Island and Point Judith.

May 22d [Tuesday]. "*Fixed, with Count de Rochambeau, the plan of the campaign. This day Americans and French dined together at Collyer's Tavern, in Wethersfield.*"—DAIRY.

The military situation which called for this conference was serious and perplexing. At the North, the British were strongly entrenched at New York, which city they had held since 1776, and the Northern coasts were threatened by their powerful fleet. At Newport, R. I., idle and unable to get to sea, by reason of a superior British fleet outside Narragansett Bay, lay a French fleet of seven ships of war, sent to our aid, equipped with artillery, siege trains, eight months' supply of provisions, etc., etc., and between three and four thousand soldiers. On the Hudson River, near West Point was encamped the American army under Washington. In the South, Lord Cornwallis, with a fine army, supported by another large British fleet, was ravaging the country despite the strenuous efforts of Gen. Gates and other able patriot leaders; and it was evident that unless something effective could be done, and that quickly, the Southern States might be wrested away from the Continental Union entirely. If so, the cause of the Colonies was lost. The minutes of this conference took the form of questions by the French Commander, which were answered by Washington, and then freely discussed by those present. Rochambeau was in favor of a Southern expedition; Washington, however, produced some intercepted correspondence between the British Ministry and Gen. Clinton at New York, in which the latter was advised to turn his attention to the aid of Cornwallis.

The conclusion arrived at, was substantially that advanced by Washington, viz.: Either to operate against New York City, or to "extend their views southward, as circumstances and a naval superiority might" permit.

It was, therefore, decided that the French troops at Newport, by

marching across New England should join the Americans on the Hudson, whence they could threaten New York City and thus prevent Clinton from sending any reinforcements to Cornwallis. This, as has been happily said was the "web" that was woven at the Webb House, and which finally entangled the hitherto victorious Cornwallis at Yorktown, and thus ultimately sealed the success of the American Revolution.

Of course, considering that the enemy's real projects could only be surmised from current events, and that future operations must depend so much upon interferences, contingencies and events, the plan of operations arrived at could only have been a general one, but the main result of the conference—perhaps, the most important one of the war—was the securing of an entire harmony of action between the allied commanders.

May 23d [Wednesday]. "*Count de Rochambeau set out on his return to Newport,<sup>1</sup> while I prepared and forwarded dispatches to the Governors of the four New England States, calling on them in earnest and pointed terms, to complete their Continental battalions, for the campaign at least, if not for three years, or the war,*" etc.—DIARY.

Wethersfield, during the two days of this military conference must have been full of most unusual excitement and interest. The presence of Gens. Washington and Knox, and of Gov. Trumbull; the striking personality and gay uniforms of the distinguished French officers, the rich liveries of their servants; the hurried goings to and fro of mounted orderlies, and escort troopers, and the interchange of courtesies and social attentions which thus suddenly invaded the hitherto quiet vil-

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<sup>1</sup> In pursuance with the agreement made at Wethersfield the French troops were speedily got in readiness for the march from Newport to the Hudson river, their course taking them through Hartford. The French remained in camp at Providence eight days, and on the 16th of June, 1781, the troops were reviewed by Baron de Viomesnil. Two days later, on the 18th, the regiment of Bourbonnois, broke camp and began its march, followed by the regiment of Royal Deuxponts on the 19th; the regiment of Siossonnois on the 20th, and the regiment of St. Onge on the 21st, the regiments having orders to always preserve the distance of a day's march between them. The regiment which first started halted at Waterman's tavern the first night, the next night at Plainfield, next Windham, next Bolton, and the fifth night arrived at Hartford, or what is now East Hartford. On reaching there each regiment remained two days and then resumed the march to the Hudson, camping at Farmington the first night from here.

It may not be amiss to mention that the French force, when it left France, consisted of seven regiments of infantry, a battalion of artillery, and the legion of Lauzun, a body of cavalry. The sending of these troops to America was a state secret, and the soldiers were in total ignorance of their destination. Accompanying the expedition was a fleet of twelve war vessels and thirty-six transports.

lage, must have had great interest for its residents—and the “small boy” of the period—ubiquitous then as now—must have witnessed, with keen regret, the departure, on the morning of the 23d, of the French contingent.

Washington, himself, left Wethersfield the next day, Thursday, 24th, on his return to New Windsor, leaving behind him ineffaceable recollections of his gracious presence, and traditions of little incidents which occurred during his stay here. Among these is one which records his visit while here to the tannery of Mr. Buck, on East side of Broad Street, where, until a few years ago, a flax-breaker used to be shown, as one with which the General had practiced the breaking of flax-stems.<sup>1</sup>

*The Webb House and its Reputation for Hospitality.*—The Revolutionary period furnished no more hospitable mansion than that of the Webbs, known as “Hospitality Hall,” in Wethersfield, the building next North of the Silas Deane House. In 1752, Joseph Webb, Sen., then an enterprising young merchant of the town, purchased the place from Maj. Samuel Wolcott, 2d, for the sum of £2,800. It consisted of three and one-fourth acres of land, with “a dwelling house, barn and other dwellings.” In the following year, he bought from Wolcott, then of Goshen, Ct., two and three-fourths acres more adjoining, for £1,374; also, about the same quantity of land from Lieut. Timothy Wright for £1,200. The principal portion of this purchase was property which was ancestral in the famous Wolcott family; Mr. Henry Wolcott, the Windsor settler and ancestor of the three Governors Wolcott, as also of the two Governors Griswold, having bought it, in 1660, for his son Mr. Henry, Jr., from the widow of Mr. Clement Cheplin, the first Ruling Elder of the Wethersfield Church. The estate descended to Capt. Samuel Wolcott, a grandson of Henry Wolcott, Jr., and the father of Maj. Samuel Wolcott, who removed to Sandisfield, Mass. Capt. Samuel died in 1734, and the Samuel Wolcott, 2d, who sold to Mr. Webb was his son the Major, as is supposed. Elizabeth Wolcott (widow of Capt. Samuel) owned a tract of two and three-fourths acres, adjoining on the south, and it was from her heirs that

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<sup>1</sup> In Washington's private accounts appears this item: “May. To the expense of a journey to Wethersfield, for the purpose of an interview with the French Gen'l. & Adm'l. Spesie expended in this trip \* \* \* £35. 18s. At the May session, 1781, the General Assembly of the Colony of Conn. (upon the recommend of William Adams, Asst. Deputy Quarter Master General) appropriated £500 to defray the expenses, to be incurred in quartering Gen. Washington, Gen. Knox, Gen. Du Portail, Count de Rochambeau, Count de Barras and the Chevalier de Chastellux, and their suites, in Wethersfield.



THE WEBB HOUSE, OR "HOSPITALITY HALL."

*By Courtesy of the Connecticut Magazine.*





Hon. Silas Deane, in 1765, bought the land whereon he built the house which, of late years, has been known as the Chester Place, next south of the Webb house.

Joseph Webb had married Mehitable, daughter of Gershom Nott, who was a well-to-do sea-captain; and another of Nott's daughters had married Elisha, a brother of Samuel Wolcott, and all were well off. But, while the Wolcott home which Webb bought, was probably a fine old mansion, as befitted one of the Wolcott blood, it is more than likely that Webb demolished it, and in 1752 or '53, built the one now so famous in American history. Joseph Webb died in 1761, at the early age of 35, and in 1763, his widow married Silas Deane. She died in 1767, and Deane then married a daughter of Col. Gurdon Saltonstall, and, as we suppose, occupied the house he had built adjoining Webb's. Webb's son, Joseph, who in 1775, was about 26 years of age, was an enterprising merchant and trader to the West Indies. In 1774, he married Abigail, a daughter of Col. John Chester, who commanded the Wethersfield Company at Bunker Hill. Joseph Webb's brother, Col. and Bvt.-Brig.-Gen. Samuel Blatchley Webb, of Gen. Washington's staff (and father of the late Gen. James Watson Webb, of N. Y. City) was in 1775, but 22 years old, and these two Webb brothers (Joseph and Samuel B.) for some years occupied their fathers' former homestead. Mr. Deane was much absent from Wethersfield, as a member of the Continental Congress, and later as Special Commissioner to France. About the close of the war, Gen. Samuel B. Webb married a Miss Bancker, and removed to New York City; and in 1790, married his second wife, a daughter of Judge Hoogeboom, by whom he had several children, one of whom was the late Gen. James Watson Webb, before mentioned. Joseph Webb, in later years, occupied the *old* "Chester Place" on the East side of Broad Street. One-half of the old house stands on its own site; the other half was drawn away and was occupied by Jalon Dickinson's heirs. The original Webb House, as it is generally known (now owned and occupied by Dr. J. N. Wells), is still in fair condition and the north front chamber is said to be in the same state as when it was occupied by Gen. Washington. The exterior was originally painted red; otherwise, except that its front porch was altered many years ago, it remains as it was built.

These details have been given, for the purpose of settling the question: "Who did the honors of the household, when Washington and other dignitaries of that period were its guests?" The answer must be—Mrs. Abigail Webb—*née* Abigail Chester. And these many acts of hospitality are characteristic of a family which produced such chiv-

alrous men as Maj. John Chester, his son Col. John and his grandson Capt. John Chester.

1781 was a year of drafts and new demands upon the heart and means of every patriot. At February (special) session of General Assembly Col. John Chester was appointed a member of the Council of Safety. Six infantry soldiers and two horsemen were added to Wethersfield's quota for the defense of the western frontier; and two regiments were ordered to be raised and held in readiness. June 20, 1781, Chas. Bulkeley, Geo. Stanley, Aaron Hosford, Josiah Willard and Aaron Belden were by the Town appointed a committee to procure clothing for the soldiers in the army; and a rate of 4*d.* per pound was ordered in order to raise means for procuring the Town's proportion of *beef-cattle* for the army. Also, the sum of £11, 13*s.*, 4*d.* was voted to JOSEPH RILEY for his services as a soldier at Horseneck.

At the May session, 1,500 men were ordered to be raised for the Continental service by detaching the two regiments which had been ordered in February preceding.

July 16th, a bounty of 20*s.* per month was voted to all soldiers "lately detached" while they shall continue in the service. A special tax of 2*d.* per pound was laid on the army-clothing account.

November 1st, 1781, Elijah Wright, James Stanley, Chas. Churchill and Sol. Dunham, were chosen Receivers of Army Provisions and Salt; and George Stanley and Appleton Robbins, Receivers of Clothing for the Army. Ebenezer Dickinson, Lieut. 5th Co., Joseph Churchill, Lieut. 6th Co., and Sam Covil, Ensign 6th Co., all of 6th Regiment Militia. At the October session, Elias Beckley, Captain, and Benj. Buckley, Lieut., in 8th Co., 6th Regiment Militia.

The General Assembly, at its May session, this year, issued a commission to Jacob Riley, as Lieut. 4th Co., Alarm List, 6th Regiment.

It is probable that in this, as in other years, more United States commissions were issued than by the State; of these, however, mention may be found in another portion of this chapter.

*Capt. Roger Welles.*—We have been considering the honor reflected upon Wethersfield, during this campaign of 1781, by the presence in her midst, of Gen. Washington and the distinguished allies of America from *La Belle France*. We have now, to consider the honor directly conferred upon the old town by one of her sons, and his Wethersfield compatriots, who served with him and under him, in the Southern Campaign, which ended before Yorktown—we refer to Capt. ROGER WELLES, of Newington Parish, whom we have pre-

viously mentioned as one of the five Wethersfield Captains in the 3rd Conn. Reg't of the "formation of 1781."

Five Companies from the "Conn. Line" went to Virginia with LaFayette in February, in the battalion under the command of Col. Gimat, a French officer, and Maj. John Palgrave Wyllys of Hartford. One of these companies was drafted from the Third Conn. Regiment, and was commanded by Capt. Welles, who was the only one of the five Captains from Wethersfield. One Company was commanded by Capt. Jonathan Heart of Farmington, of which Ozias Goodrich of Wethersfield was Ensign, and was drafted from the First Conn. Reg't. No other commissioned officer in those five Companies appears, from the rolls, to have come from Wethersfield, although there may have been privates and perhaps non-commissioned officers, but the rolls do not give their residences. These five Companies formed part of the battalion that stormed the enemy's redoubt at Yorktown on the night of Oct. 14, 1781, and thereby hastened the surrender of Cornwallis on Oct. 19. Capt. Welles was wounded by a bayonet thrust in his leg in that assault. He was a tall man and of commanding presence, standing six feet and two inches in his stockings. In this night assault he led his Company and was the first to mount the enemy's works, and in the intense excitement of clearing the way with his sword for his men to follow, he did not fully realize that he was wounded till the redoubt was taken, when he discovered that his boot was partly filled with blood. His wound was not so serious, however, but that he was present at the surrender of Cornwallis on Oct. 19, and saw the English army march out between the two long lines of the French and American forces, as he afterwards wrote to his father, "the most pleasing sight I ever beheld—to see those haughty fellows march out of their strong fortifications, and *ground their arms.*" Some extracts from his letters to his father will give the account of an eye witness of the events described.

We here insert the pay roll of Capt. Welles' Company for June, 1781. These men were drafted from the Third Conn. Reg't, and none were less than six feet tall, according to tradition.

SEC. 85. *Pay Roll of Capt. Welles' Company of the Third Conn. Reg't, Serving in Col. Gimat's Reg't June, 1781.*

Received of Capt. Heart the several sums annexed to our names in full of one month's pay, in hard money, advanced to the officers and men in the 3d Connecticut Regiment, serving in the Light Infantry Company in Colonel Gimat's Regiment, advanced from the avails of confiscated estates. Rec'd as witness our hands.



## OFFICERS.

Roger Welles, Capt.	\$40.	Stephen Butler, Corpl.	7.30
William Lynn, Lieut.,	26.60	Benjamin Dix, “	7.30
Jacob Kingsbury, Ensn.,	20.	David Lounsbury, “	7.30
Lewis Hurd, Serg't	10.	David Bullen, “	7.30
Reuben Beach, “	10.	Joseph Clinton, “	7.30
Silas Phelps, “	10.	John Dixon, Drummer,	7.30
Stephen Meeker, “	10.	Daniel Winchell, Fifer,	7.30
James Watson, “	10.		

## PRIVATES.

John Allyn,	\$6.60	Benjamin Kircom,	6.60
Jacob Acor, (Ardur?)	6.60	Jonathan Miller,	6.60
John Barnum,	6.60	Bryan Montague,	6.60
Noah Barnum,	6.60	Jedediah Kimball,	6.60
Nathaniel Beach,	6.60	Hendrick Baile,	6.60
Edward Burghes,	6.60	Jeremiah Connell,	6.60
Reuben Cadwell,	6.60	William Chadwick,	6.60
Allen Corning,	6.60	Joel Mosher,	6.60
John Downs,	6.60	Samuel Pulford,	6.60
Allen Evans,	6.60	Sheldon Potter,	6.60
Remembrance Filley,	6.60	David Roberts,	6.60
Vaniah Fox,	6.60	Isaiah Smith,	6.60
Samuel Goodkins,	6.60	Justin St. John,	6.60
Ichabod Goodrich,	6.60	Samuel Vallett,	6.60
Seth Gregory	6.60	Ezra Tryon,	6.60
Samuel Hinman,	6.60	Benjamin Wakeley,	6.60
James Hyde,	6.60	Joshua Wheeler,	6.60
David Hurd,	6.60	Samuel Whitney,	6.60
Joseph Johnson,	6.60	David Williams,	6.60
Samuel Manning,	6.60	Jeremiah Chamberlin,	6.60

(*State Archives, Rev. War, Vol. 25, Doc. 28.*)

The above Pay Roll is written upon the two sides of one sheet of paper, in two columns; the left hand column contains the names and amounts as given above, while the right hand one contains the original signatures of the recipients, written opposite their names in the first column. Some few sign by mark only.

The American troops soon returned to the North, Capt. Welles wrote from “Camp Highlands, Dec. 10, 1781,” announcing their arrival at that point, on Dec. 8, saying: “After a very fatiguing march we arrived at this place the 8th instant, not a little pleased to find such comfortable quarters, for we are permitted to occupy the huts we built the last year.”

Here the Connecticut troops spent the winter quietly, many of them visiting their homes in furlough, among whom was Capt. Welles.

*Campaign of 1782.*—No important battle took place in 1782. There was a general expectation of peace, Capt. Welles voiced the general hope in the following letter, which, however, shows some distrust.

"Connecticut Village, May 13th/82.

"Hon'd Sir:

"For these ten days or more we have been flattering ourselves that peace was near at hand, but now begin to apprehend it so far distant that nothing short of a successful campaign will procure it for us. Sir Guy Carlton is arrived at New York and succeeds Gen. Clinton, who has sailed for England. By a flag from N. Y. Gen. Washington has received a large packet in which were dispatches for Congress. Nothing that looks like peace has yet transpired. Hope the dispatches contain something more favorable. It seems there has been a great revolution at home, a great change in the ministry, and the administration are willing to redress our grievances, and put us on the same footing we were in seventy-three.

"They pretend to think that the Americans are so attached to the British nation and so anxious for peace, that they will renounce their alliance with the French nation; that we were contending with the former ministry, and not at war with the nation at large.

"I hope the States will exert themselves, and get their quota of men early into the field; the only means to procure peace on good terms."

On July 11, 1782, Savannah was evacuated by the British. The French army embarked from Boston for the West Indies Dec. 24. The British evacuated Charleston Dec. 14, 1782. A preliminary treaty of peace was signed at Paris Nov. 30, 1782, and ratified by Great Britain and the United States, in April, 1783. The Count de Rochambeau sailed from America, January 11, 1783. The general treaty of peace was signed at Paris, January 20, 1783. Sir Guy Carlton proclaimed, April 8, 1783, a cessation of hostilities, and on April 19, Washington ordered the Resolution of Congress to the same effect to be read to his troops. New York City was evacuated by the British, Nov. 25. On Dec. 24, Washington took final leave of the army.

1783.—In the early part of this year, the "Conn. Line" was for the third time reorganized, and the five regiments were reduced to three. The new formation went into effect Jan. 1, 1783. Col. Samuel B. Webb had command of the Third Regiment. Connecticut was retained to serve at West Point till the close of the year. Those from Wethersfield in this third formation were Ensign Ozias Goodrich, in the First Regiment; Col. Webb, Major Joseph A. Wright and Capt. Roger Welles, of the Third Regiment. Of this formation Capt. Welles writes to his father, as follows:

"Camp near Peekskill, Nov. 9, 1782.

"Hon'd Sir:

"Since I have had it in my power to write, there has been a new arrangement of the army. The five Conn. Regts. are reduced to three. Of consequence some of the officers are obliged to retire. As it happened, the most of us had our option in the matter. I wished to have had time to have wrote and received your advice on the subject before I was obliged to say Yea or Nay. We had but a few days to consider the matter, after it was declared that a reduction would take place, before it was finally determined. It gave me some little uneasiness, lest the choice I should make would not be the most judicious. I took the advice of my friends that were near. They all advised to continue. I have agreed to remain in service, the only one of four of my rank from the town \* \* Capt. Bulkeley is going home, and will possibly arrive before this. He will be able to give a detail of all the transactions here. We are now preparing to march to-morrow morning to relieve the troops on the lines. The Block-House at Dobbs Ferry is the Post to which I am destined. From your very affectionate son. ROGER WELLES.

"P. S. My love and respects to all my friends. I propose making a visit among my friends soon after the Light Infantry are dissolved, which maybe in the course of six weeks or less."

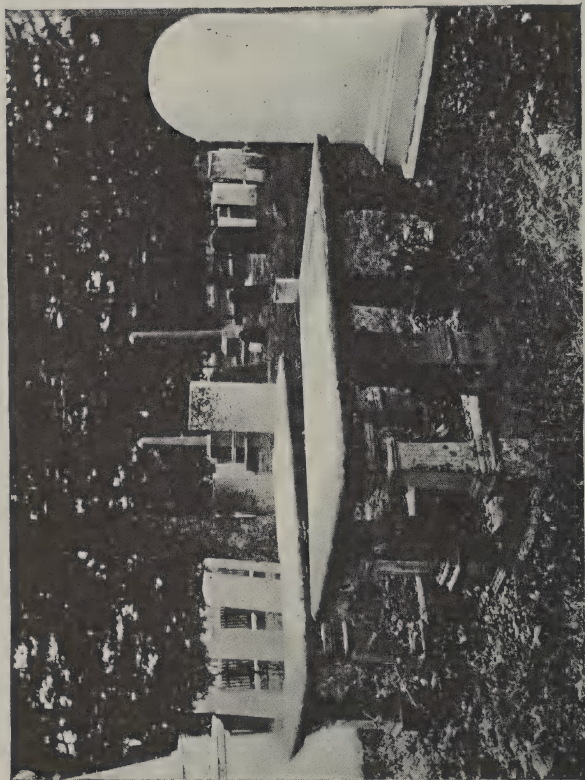
The Revolutionary Army was disbanded, as a body, in June, 1783: but seven Regiments were retained for service in the Highlands through the year. One of these was formed out of the three Regiments of the "Conn. Line" of the previous formation, and was commanded by Col. Heman Swift of Cornwall, Conn., and with it, Capt. Welles and Ens. Ozias Goodrich, also of Wethersfield, remained at West Point and vicinity until discharged in December, 1783.

The former wrote to his father from "West Point, June 17, 1783. —Doubtless before this time you have heard that I conclude to remain in service somewhat longer. But I do not expect it will be long before the Definite Treaty arrives, when it's supposed that some of us will be obliged to retire." He wrote from "West Point, Oct. 12, 1783. —Colonel Huntington just now informed he is to set off immediately for the Eastward. He has left the army with an expectation of not returning. We expect soon to follow him. I expect to be discharged in course of four or five weeks at farthest."

At the close of the war, he held two "Soldiers Notes" (issued by the Treasurer of the State, the State being then too poor to pay in money) amounting altogether to £611, 8s., 3½d., for payment of which he unsuccessfully petitioned the General Assembly in May, 1786; and







TOMBSTONE OF GEN. ROGER WELLES.

*By Courtesy of L. A. Welles, Esq.*

having subsequently lost these notes "in the waters of the Conn. River, as he was going to bathe," his widow Jemima Welles, petitioned the General Assembly at its May session, 1796, that they be made good to her and his heirs—which was accordingly done by the issue by State Comptroller of new notes, with added interest.

After Capt. Welles' return to Wethersfield, he married Jemima Kellogg, daughter of Martin and Mary (Boardman) Kellogg.

Gen. Welles' personal presence was commanding, being six feet two inches in height, light brown hair, blue eyes; robust and temperate in all things, he was endowed with good health, even after the fatigues and privations of the war; was free from all diseases and vices incident to camp life, and it is related of him that when, after the surrender of Yorktown, the officers gave a banquet, he was the only one present, who was able at its close, to sit at the table.

The General Assembly appointed him Captain of the Fifth Company or Trainband in the Sixth Regiment of the State Militia in May, 1786. His father-in-law conveyed to him and his wife, April 14, 1788, the house and lot where he took up his residence in Newington. His name first appears in the records of the Newington Ecclesiastical Society under date of Sept. 21, 1789. He was appointed in May, 1788, Lieut.-Col. commanding the Sixth Regiment, in the room of Lieut.-Col. John Belden resigned, and in May, 1793, Brigadier-General of the Seventh Brigade, which position he held until his death. He was a member of the House of Representatives from Wethersfield during nine sessions from 1790, and at the time of his death. He was buried with military honors in the Newington cemetery. The inscription upon his tombstone sums up his character as follows: "To the memory of General ROGER WELLES. He was liberally educated; as an officer in the army and militia he served with great reputation. He was a member of the Legislature, a good citizen, a kind husband, and an affectionate father. He departed this life greatly lamented, May 27th, A. D., 1795, in the 41st year of his age."

The death of Gen. Welles was noticed in the *American Mercury* of Monday, June 1, 1795, as follows:

"Died, at Wethersfield, last Tuesday, after a short, but severe illness, in the 41st year of his age, General Roger Welles, a member of the Assembly of this State. On Thursday he was interred, under arms. His funeral was attended by many of the members of the Assembly, and a large concourse of people. In private life he was amiable and benevolent. In his public character he honored the stations he had been called to fill. He died justly lamented by his

connexions and friends, and deservedly regretted by a numerous acquaintance."

The Rev. Joshua Belden is reported to have said, on hearing of Gen. Welles' death: "The glory of Newington has departed."

*State and Town Action—Close of the War—General Rejoicing, etc.*

At the General Assembly's May session of 1782, two regiments, of nine companies each, were authorized to be raised, for Washington's command in New York. JOHN FRANCIS was commissioned Captain in one of these regiments. By the Town, February 18th, 1782, a bounty of 20s. per month was voted for the soldiers detached for the two months' service. March 18th, Barnabas Deane was chosen to settle the accounts of soldiers. April 1st, the Selectmen were instructed to procure the four men needed to complete the Town's quota. April 15th, Chas. Churchill and John Robbins were appointed a committee to supply soldiers' families. July 1st, a bounty of 20s. per month was ordered to be paid to "soldiers now drafted," in addition to the pay allowed by the State.

In September of this year, there were (besides some from Glastonbury) these men from (or credited to) Wethersfield, in Col. Canfield's Militia Regiment at West Point, N. Y.—an "Irish contingent," to judge by the names—probably substitutes or bounty men: Lient. Charles Dix. Privates, Leonard Boardman, John R. Lennox, John Gibson, Henry McNally, James Hogan, Barnabas Flannakin, Lemuel Holmes, David Wiltward? Joseph Barton, John Wester?

The Assembly, at its January (special) session, ordered the quotas of the several towns to be filled up "for the war;" one regiment of 480 men (commissioned officers and privates), in four companies, was ordered to be raised for service at Horseneck and on the Western frontier; also, 100 men for coast defenses. Wethersfield's quota for Western frontier service, was placed at 11 men; 300 men were drafted (in part) from the 6th Regiment. At the May session, Wethersfield and Glastonbury were constituted the 6th Regiment (militia), which was brigaded with the 1st, 19th and 22nd, as the First Brigade; and the Light Dragoon Companies of several of the regiments in the 1st and 2nd Brigades were consolidated into a First Regiment of Light Dragoons.

This year, John Chester, of Wethersfield, was one of the State Council of Safety. The Assembly, at its May session, appointed Levi Robbins, Quartermaster of the First Troop in First Regiment of Light Horse; and Samuel Cord, Captain, and Reuben Riley, Ensign, in the 6th Co. of 6th Militia Regiment. At its October session, Charles

Andrews was commissioned Lieutenant in same company and regiment, and John Dickinson, of Wethersfield, was in a Middlebury Company.

The Assembly, at January session, commissioned Daniel Griswold as Ensign in 1st Co. 6th Militia Regiment; and, at its May session, Stephen Mix Mitchell, Justice of the Peace and Quorum; and granted that a Public Market or *Fair* might be held at Wethersfield twice each year (once in April or May, once in September or October, for three days at a time; the necessary buildings, etc., to be put up at the Town's expense. At the October session, William Miller was commissioned Captain; Elisha Treat, Lieutenant, and Abr. Hollister, Jr., Ensign, of the 7th Co. 6th Regiment Militia.

On the 28th of April, 1783, the townsmen of Wethersfield, in Town Meeting assembled, voted, That the Selectmen procure a barrel of powder "*for the purpose of firing fieldpieces, or cannon, on account of the joyful News of Peace.*" That tells the whole story.

We have no doubt that with the aid of that barrel, and of sundry glasses of Jamaica Rum, whiskey and hot "flip," they managed to enjoy themselves as much and to celebrate Peace as gloriously, as we, their great grandsons can do now-a-days, when occasion demands, with "Paine's Fireworks," Chinese Fire Crackers and Bombs, Revolvers, Ice Cream and Fancy Drinks. Homely as their rustic celebration might seem to us now, there was, way down in their hearts, an upwelling feeling of gratitude to God, which we, their descendants are not ashamed to acknowledge in our hearts, as we recount their brave deeds, their unalterable trust and the great results which have flowed from them to us. All honor to the patriot sires of Old Wethersfield!

*Wethersfield Members of the Cincinnati.*—The "Society of the Cincinnati," instituted at the close of the Revolutionary War (1783), by Gen. Washington and the General Officers of the Army, was designed to perpetuate and cherish union and national honor between the respective States of the newly formed National Government, and to keep alive between the commissioned officers of the late Army, a spirit of brotherly love and kindness, based upon mutual recollections of the dangers and trials through which they had passed in the struggle for independence. This Society limited its membership to those who had held commissions, and to the eldest male descendants in regular line. Unfortunately, a public antagonism was unjustly stirred up against this organization as not being of a democratic character in consonance with the nature of our American institutions, and, after a while, it fell largely into desuetude—some of the State Societies into which it had been divided, virtually going into abeyance, while others



only contained a feeble existence. Within the memory of many now living, however, a better understanding of the nature of this Society has arisen; its various State branches have been resuscitated (as has, also, the branch established by LaFayette in France) and its membership is now a highly coveted honor.

The following Wethersfield men were original members of the Society:

<i>Lieut.</i> Simeon Belden.	<i>Brig.-Gen.</i> Samuel Blatchley Webb.
<i>Capt.</i> (and Brevet-Major) Edward Bulkeley.	<i>Capt.</i> Samuel W. Williams.
<i>Col.</i> John Chester.	<i>Maj.</i> Joseph Allyn Wright.
<i>Ens.</i> Ozias Goodrich.	<i>Capt.</i> Ezekiel Porter Belden,
<i>Capt.</i> John Riley.	(adm. 7 July, 1784).
<i>Capt.</i> Roger Welles.	<i>Chaplain</i> William Lockwood,
<i>Capt.</i> John Webb.	(from the Mass. Soc.)

[HON. SILAS DEANE, *Member of the Continental Congress. Special Agent to the Court of France, etc.*

The history of Wethersfield during the Revolutionary period would be incomplete without some notice of the admirable patriotism and subsequent sad history of this man, who though not a native of the town, was prominently associated with it by residence, marriage and commercial interests.

SILAS DEANE was a son of Silas Deane, blacksmith, of Groton, Conn., where the family had been settled since 1712. He was born at G., 24 Dec., 1737; graduated Y. C., 1758, and was for some time a school teacher; first came to Wethersfield in 1761; and was admitted to the Connecticut bar as an attorney in April of that year. (*Co. Ct. Rec.*) On the 8th of Oct., 1763, he married Mehitable, the widow of Joseph Webb, Sr., and daughter of Capt. Gershom Nott, of Wethersfield; engaged in the West India trade, and soon became widely known in Colonial mercantile circles. His wife died October 13, 1767, and he married (2) Elizabeth (granddaughter of Gov.) Saltonstall, who was born 12 June, 1742. About 1768,<sup>1</sup> he entered public life as

<sup>1</sup> The following advertisement in the *Conn. Courant* probably marks the point of his transference from mercantile to political and official life: "All Persons who have open Accounts with the Subscriber, are desired immediately to close them, as he is now endeavoring to make a full settlement of his Book Debts. Hope no one, after this, will take it ill, if sued without further Notice, which, however disagreeable to him, yet consistent with his own interest, and cannot be avoided."

Wethersfield, 23d Feb., 1767.

Wethersfield's representative in the General Assembly of Connecticut, where he early proved himself an ardent sympathizer with the growing resentment of the Colonies against the British laws restricting the free development of American Commerce. When "non-intercourse" was declared by the merchants of Connecticut against those of Newport, who were charged with infractions of the non-importative agreement, Mr. Deane acted as their clerk, and, as such, signed their circular of February 20, 1774. To the Connecticut Committee of Correspondence of 1773, he proved so efficient a secretary that they selected him to represent the Colony at the Continental Congress of 1774, together with Sherman and Dyer. And there he strongly advocated a Union of the Colonies. Before the re-assembling of Congress in 1775, Deane (who, with Sherman and Dyer had again been sent—but, this time, by the Conn. General Assembly) was credited with the inception of the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga, the equipment and subsistence of that expedition being especially intrusted to him, and largely paid for out of his own purse. (See page 438.) This admirable strategic exploit, which interposed a barrier to British invasion from Canada, should ever entitle him to grateful remembrance. He also wrote the agreement (the original in possession of the Conn. Hist. Soc.) which was signed by the one hundred young Wethersfield men, who volunteered for the "Lexington Alarm" of April, 1775, in which they pledged their service and to refrain from drunkenness, gaming and profanity.

Owing to some local jealousies, Deane failed of election to the Third Continental Congress, but remained in Philadelphia, devoting all his energies to promoting the Colonial cause. With Schuyler, he was appointed to consider means of procuring military stores for the Colonies; and, with Washington, to estimate the cost of equipping an army. He also formulated the Rules for a Continental Navy; and, 15th Oct., 1775, selected and purchased the first vessel for that service. He was also a member of the Committee of Secrecy, organized 18 Sept., 1775, whose object was the purchase of arms and ammunition in Europe. He accepted a contract for this purpose, and, in December, recommended as a secret diplomatist and commercial agent to France. Deane was, at this time, a marked figure in Philadelphia; having a good personal appearance and striking manner, dressing, living and entertaining in good style, somewhat fond of showy equipages and appointments, and had impressed the Secret Committee of Correspondence (Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Har-

rison, John Dickinson, John Jay, Robert Morris—a quintette of the most distinguished members of Congress) by his evident mercantile skill and abilities. But, although held in high esteem in Philadelphia, he was not so fortunate at home. With his colleagues from Connecticut, Sherman and Dyer (owing to some objections which he had made as to certain terms in that Colony's accounts against Congress, as well as to his support of Putnam for a generalship), he was not on good terms. Deane set sail, March 5th, for France, arriving there May the 4th, 1775; his mission being to procure equipments for the Revolutionary Army, which could not be obtained in America and without which a war could not have been carried on. His instructions were to procure, in France, military clothing, muskets, cannon, etc., for an army of 30,000 men; articles suitable for Indian trading, in order to conciliate the frontier savages; and, if opportunity offered, to effect a treaty of alliance and commerce with the French Government. This was a commission of vast importance to the struggling Colonies, and certainly indicated the opinion of the best men in Congress as to his capacity, as well as their perfect confidence in him. Arriving in France, he first made his Indian purchases at Bordeaux and then proceeded to Paris, and entered upon his mission which was of the most delicate and secret nature, without a friend in the country, with no knowledge of the French or any other foreign language, perfectly unversed in European diplomatic usages, and with no letters of introduction, except from Franklin to some of his scientific friends in Paris. by one of whom he was introduced to Comte de Vergennes, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, his interview with whom had to be informal and secret. Handicapped as he was, however, by all these apparently unsurmountable obstacles, Deane gained his point with the Minister and the King—although, for reasons apparent to them, if not to Deane, every step had to be taken in the most secret manner. Matters were finally managed through a so-called merchant, Carion de Beaumarchais (author of the famous comedy of "*Le Mariage de Figaro*"), through whom, during the summer of 1776, he obtained cannon, powder, small arms and ammunition for 25,000 men. And, through Beaumarchais (ostensibly a fictitious firm of Hortelez & Co.) the French Government supplied the capital for purchase of supplies, and permitted them to remove cannon from the arsenals until the open alliance between France and the United States was fully effected in February, 1778. These supplies were to be paid for by shipments of flour and tobacco to Hortelez & Co.; the suspicions of the British Minister in

Paris being lulled by the specious statement that they were for the French Colonies and a matter of private enterprize. Eight cargoes of these army supplies, valued at a million dollars, reached America in safety, and contributed to the victories of 1777-78. Nor did Deane confine his efforts to material supplies; he also secured for America the services of a large number of foreign officers (principally French), who stipulated for rank and pay in requital for their experience and aid—such as LeFayette, DeKalb, Steuben, Armand, Fleury and others.

Up to this time Deane had been the sole American representative at Paris; but, in September, 1776, Congress appointed Franklin and Arthur Lee as Commissioners to co-operate with him. Franklin, of course, acted in perfect harmony with Deane; but Lee (who had been the American financial agent in Europe and had resided in London as secret agent and correspondent during the early part of the Revolution) was evidently very jealous of his two fellow commissioners; and especially of Deane, who was mostly engaged in the delicate task of forwarding supplies to America, and regulating, at the ports, the conduct and duties of the American agents who, in fact, were not of his appointment and wholly irresponsible. Through interference and influence with them he managed to obstruct Deane's work, to some extent. Lee, also, started a story that Beaumarchias, at a dinner party in London, had, without solicitation, offered him "a *gift* of 200,000 *louis d'or*, as well as all needed munitions of war," and the story gained credence with Congress—despite Deane's information to the contrary. This made trouble for Deane, for, when the goods sent by Deane arrived here, the bills from Horteletz & Co. came with them. The controversy grew so hot that toward the close of 1778, the French Government had to officially notify Congress that these supplies were *purchases*, not *gifts*. And when the American Commissioners, baffled by the diplomatic excuses and delays of the French Minister, in consummating the completion of the much desired treaty between France and America, began to lose hope, Deane wrote to that minister a peremptory letter that it should be signed within twenty-four hours or he would commence negotiations with England with reference to a reconciliation with the Colonies. His colleagues were terrified at his temerity in so doing, but by midnight the treaty was signed, and the three commissioners returned home. On his return, Deane was not formally accused, but found himself under a cloud of suspicion, and was called upon to explain how it was that these supplies were not *gifts*. Of the allegations against him



the only serious one was that he had used his agency to improve his private fortune. But, the fact was, that he had seriously impaired it, by attempting to conduct his private business in the intervals of his public duties, and by entrusting his affairs too much to others. An acrimonious discussion of the matter between his friends and those of Lee filled the newspapers of the day. He was kept awaiting the action of Congress for over a year, and was obliged to appeal again and again to that body for some final action or vindication. He strongly demanded a public investigation of both his acts and accounts, but the Congress of that day was made up of very different men from that which had adopted the Declaration of Independence. It was now largely composed of men who had reduced the value of the Continental Currency, and who had caballed against Washington, during the dreadful winter of 1777-8. His peremptory recall from abroad had deprived him of the opportunity to obtain his vouchers, which were on file at his agencies at the various French ports, yet his accounts and statements were evidently frank and accurate. No charge of irregularity had been made. Congress seemed only intent on avoiding the payment of a just claim and tendered him no relief, except the offer of \$10,000 in depreciated Continental currency—which he declined and returned to France with a deeply wounded spirit.

On his arrival there, 27 July, 1780, he found himself utterly penniless, and was dependent, during the remainder of his life, upon the charity of friends—his only other resource being his claim against the Government for services such as few other men had, or could have, rendered his country in her hour of greatest need. This claim was steadily ignored, until in 1787, eight years after his return to Europe, a commission sent to France to audit his accounts, found that the United States was indebted to him in the sum of \$30,000. Of this sum he never received a dollar in his lifetime; and it was not until 1842—sixty years after his death, that his heirs received less than half of the amount.<sup>1</sup>

The iron had entered into his soul. He lived in Paris, and later in Flanders, always in obscurity, neglect and poverty, avoiding his friends as much as possible, and speaking with bitterness and contempt of the incapacity and incompetence of Congress—his condition well known

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<sup>1</sup> This award was made upon the ground that the unfavorable report made when Lee was antagonizing him and was Commissioner of Accounts, was "*ex parte*, erroneous and a gross injustice to Mr. Deane."

to English spies on the Continent, who undoubtedly counted upon his ultimate defection to the British cause. While living in London the press reported him as interviewing Lord North, dining with Fox and being present at the Duke of Portland's lever; all of which scandals he explicitly denied in his home letters. Even the traitor Benedict Arnold had the effrontery to seek his acquaintance, as we learn from a letter written by Deane to his brother Barnabas, July 13, 1783, in which he says "Arnold called upon me, I frankly told him that I could not visit him and that he must suspend his visits, which he did." But these falsehoods were pushed to the utmost by his enemies and it is not strange that in view of the tone of his "intercepted" letters, suspicions should have been aroused that he had become an agent of the British government. At length, maddened by the cruel delay, suspicion and neglect to which he was subjected, his patriotism and endurance gave out; and he took advantage of the British preparations of 1781, for crushing out the rebellion in the Colonies, to write his friends in America as to the folly of any further resistance to the British arms. These letters (May and June, 1781) were the famous "intercepted letters," captured by a British Cruiser upon an American Vessel, which were published at intervals during 1781-82, in *Rivington's Gazette*, in New York City.

After the Peace, he went to London, Sept., 1783, with the purpose of attracting European capital to the development of the natural resources of his native land. In October, of the same year, he wrote an address to the people of Connecticut, explaining his letters and evidently wishing to open a way for his return.

He also had some hope of aid from the Canadian government for a scheme of his for connecting the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain, by a canal. During his first absence in France, he had lost his wife Elizabeth, by death, 9 June, 1777, and was joined in Paris by his only son, who remained with him until his removal to England, when he was sent home to Hartford, to live with his father's friends and become a merchant.

While ill and helpless, in 1788, Mr. Deane was robbed of a portion of his papers, which were sold to Mr. Jefferson, then U. S. Minister to France. On 22nd Sept., 1789, Mr. Deane left London to meet the British packet-ship at Deal; was seized with a violent illness; died the next day and was buried on English soil in an unmarked grave. It is altogether a pitiful story of how envy and political clamor can ruin a man's character and deprive him of the fruits of his best directed

efforts. Much has been written and published concerning Deane's case<sup>1</sup> and even yet much unwarranted misconception exists as to its real merits—but we may safely accept the opinion of his fellow commissioner Benj. Franklin, who said of him, in 1777, that he was “a faithful, active and able minister;” and later, when Deane was in disgrace, “I have never known or suspected any cause to charge him with any want of probity in any bargain or purchase whatever.” And that eminent patriot and financier of the Revolutionary Period, Robert Morris, wrote to Franklin, March 31, 1780, “I consider Mr. Deane as a martyr to the cause of America. After rendering the most signal and important service, he has been reviled and traduced in the most shameful manner. But I have not a doubt that the day will come, when his merits shall be universally acknowledged, and the authors of these calumnies held in the detestation they deserve.” Even Beaumarchais, with whom Deane had had large dealings in the carrying out of his mission to France, wrote, that, “if the military stores were of any advantage to the continental army, it was due to the indefatigable pains taken by Mr. Deane,” and that he ‘merited the applause of the world.’”

Mr. Deane's only authorized publication was *An Address to the Free and Independent Citizens of the United States of North America*. Hartford, 1784, small 8vo. pp. 30, of which two other editions were published in New London during the same year—one a small 4to, pp. 38; the other in London, 8vo. pp. 95.

Publications relating to Silas Deane, are:<sup>1</sup>

1. *Paris Papers*; or Mr. Silas Deane's late intercepted letters to his brothers, and other intimate friends in America, \* \* \* 1782. New York, 16 mo. pp. 141, xxxii.

2. *Papers in Relation to the Case of Silas Deane*, now first published from original manuscripts. Philadelphia, '76 Society, 1855; 8vo. pp. 20.

3. *Correspondence of Silas Deane*, Delegate to the First and Second Congress at Philadelphia, 1774-1776. Vol. I Conn. Historical Society Collections, Hartford, 1870, pp. 127-368.

4. Collections of the New York Historical Society—*Deane Papers*, 1886-90, inclusive, 5 volumes.

<sup>1</sup> *An Address upon Silas Deane*, delivered by Rev. George L. Clarke, pastor of the Wethersfield Congregational Church, 9th of October, 1904, before the Ruth Wyllys, Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution assembled by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. E. Hart Fenn, in the house built by Deane in Wethersfield. Printed in the *Hartford Daily Courant*, 10th June, 1904, and received too late to be noted in its proper chronological order.

5. Dr. Francis Wharton's *Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States*, Washington, 1889, contains a summary of Deane's life and character, with additional letters.

6. *The Correspondence and Journals of Gen. S. B. Webb* (Deane's stepson), edited by W. C. Ford, two volumes, 1893.

7. A paper on Silas Deane by Prof. Chas. J. Stille, in *Pennsylvania Magazine*, XVIII, No. 3—from which and the prefatory sketch in the Deane Papers, No. 4 of this list, this sketch has been mostly compiled.

See, also, an article on Deane and Lafayette, in *New England Mag., New Series*, Vol. VIII.—*H. R. S.*]

#### WETHERSFIELD'S REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY ON THE SEA, IN THE NAVY, AND IN PRIVATEERS.

At the time of the Revolution, and for a long period before, Wethersfield, as a community, was largely engaged in foreign commerce (as will be best understood from a review of our chapter entitled *The Maritime History of Wethersfield*), especially in the West India trade. Her sea-captains and sailors were numerous and many vessels, owned, built and armed by her citizens were to be found in various foreign ports. It was natural, therefore that, when war with Great Britain began, these hardy sailors from this inland country town should see and quickly embrace the opportunity which it presented, both of helping their country's cause and acquiring profit as well as honor to themselves by means of *privateering*.

Among the earliest advocates of this form of warfare, was BARNABAS DEANE, of Wethersfield. On 27th of November, 1775, he wrote to his brother Silas, then a member of the Continental Congress: "In case American privateers are to be allowed to take British property in the West Indies, you are sensible that the first opportunity may be very advantageous, and as well disposed of in this Colony as anywhere; especially as the persons now applying are your good friends, and would prosecute the affair immediately. If you think there is a probability of permission from Congress, pray attempt it, as those persons desirous of adventuring are very impatient to be informed," etc.

The authority was granted, and, on the 22nd of January following, Barnabas writes, "I propose setting out this afternoon for Saybrook, to engage carpenters, timber, etc."—"pray get the plan of the Ship completed and send it by first hand." It is probable that this ship was built at Rocky Hill, where more ship-building was then carried



on than at the yard by the Cove, in Wethersfield; both yards, however, being the public property of the Town of Wethersfield. The vessel in question may have been the sloop *Revenge*, owned by Mr. Deane, and in commission in 1776. She carried a battery of eight guns and a crew of 64 men; and was probably the vessel of the same name destroyed by the British, in the Penobscot, in 1779. We may add, in this connection, that SILAS DEANE was at the head of the *very first* Naval Committee appointed by Congress, in October, 1775 before there was any Navy Department, or any cabinet officer.

In 1776, there was a privateer brig, the *Ranger*, having 14 guns and a crew of 20 men, commanded by an A. RILEY, who, in 1778, seems to have been in command of the privateer sloop *Snake*, of 4 guns and 20 men. Although there have been, probably, more sea-captains of this surname in Wethersfield, Rocky Hill and Middletown (the Cromwell portion), all descendants of John Riley, the Wethersfield settler, than of any other surname, it is quite safe to assume that this one was Capt. Ashbel Riley, of Wethersfield. In the same year (1778) his brother, Capt. JUSTUS RILEY, commanded the sloop *Hero*, of 6 guns and 40 men. He, as well as his sons, Justus, Jr., and Roswell, were traders to the West Indies. The *Hero* had been, earlier, captured and brought into Wethersfield as a prize, by the privateer sloop *Enterprise*, of which John Wright was master, and Samuel Boardman, owner or part owner, in October, 1777, and when captured, was laden with velvets, calico, broadcloth, bearskins, silks, sagathy, chalon, crape, fustian, quality, camlet, coating, linen-checks, tar-cloth, gimp, lace, etc. Thirteen men, exclusive of the officers, shared in this booty; and Boardman armed the sloop with 7 swivels and 200 shot, which he bought of Samuel Broome of New York City.<sup>1</sup> What was the history of the *Hero*, after its conversion into a war-vessel, we know not.

It may be here remarked that there were, at this time no Federal Courts, and consequently captured vessels were condemned as lawful prizes of war by the State Courts. So too, the General Assembly, and its Council of Safety, issued *letters of marque* to individuals, whereby they were authorized to seize the enemy's property upon the high seas, without obtaining such permission from the Naval Committee of Congress.

OZIAS GOODRICH,<sup>2</sup> in 1778, commanded the schooner *Humbird*, of

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<sup>1</sup> See original papers in possession of W. F. J. Boardman of Hartford.

<sup>2</sup> In his *Scraps of Weth. Hist.* No. VI, published in the *Weth. Farmer*, Judge Adams corrects the statement made by him in the *Memorial Hist. of Hartford Co.*, that this was Oliver Goodrich.

four guns and twenty men; this vessel was wrecked, in 1786, at St. Eustatia.

In 1778, also, one J. COOMBS (probably Joseph), commanded a schooner, the *Independence*, of four guns and 15 men. Several of this surname were seafaring men at this date, and none such are found elsewhere than at Wethersfield.

In 1780, one JOSEPH BULKELEY was in command of the privateer schooner *Experiment*, of 12 guns and 40 men—this was probably Joseph Bulkeley, of Rocky Hill.

The brig *Jason*, Capt. SAMUEL STILLMAN, 10 guns and 25 men was in commission in 1780. Capt. Stillman was the son of Capt. Nathaniel Stillman, by his second wife (Sarah, dau. of Capt. John Allyn), was born in 1741, and died in 1794. He was reputed a very skillful navigator in his day, and in 1784 accomplished the then unparalleled feat of making three voyages to Jamacia in one year. The *Jason*, in 1781, was under command of Capt. MOSES TRYON, who had commenced privateering in 1775.

Capt. ALLYN STILLMAN, brother to the above Capt. Samuel, did the State good service, not in the fighting but in the transportation line. He imported most of the salt, and many other war supplies, and was ever most efficient, reliable and courageous in the discharge of his important responsibilities.

The sloop *Lash*, 10 guns and 15 men, was well handled in the privateering way, in 1782, by Capt. THOMAS NEWSON, an Englishman by birth; said to have been a harsh and brutal man, and who died in 1819, aged 80 years. He had several sons whom he brought up to follow the seas.

In 1777, the sloops *Swallow* and *Nonpareil* were taken as prizes. Capt. JEHIEL TINKER received eleven shares of the booty and Capt. MOSES TRYON, thirteen.<sup>1</sup> The mode of division in this case, indicates that the capture was the result of a joint enterprise, conducted by Captains Tinker and Tryon, each having his own vessel and that the larger share of the net proceeds (£375) was Tryon's.

Capt. WILLIAM GRISWOLD, of Rocky Hill, seems to have been engaged in privateering, as he writes to Samuel Boardman, at Wethersfield (date not given), to send down to him "the swivel and swivel balls, immediately."<sup>2</sup> It may be that these guns were needed for the *Minerva*, then fitting out.—See p. 502.

<sup>1</sup> *Rec. of Conn. Men in the War of the Revolution.*

<sup>2</sup> The "swivel" was a small cannon, with a very small bore, measuring from 1 to 1½ inches, and the largest balls weighed but 1½ pounds. They were without

WILLIAM ROBBINS' sloop, the *Betsy*, in 1776, carried two swivel guns, though this may have only been for defensive purposes.

There was, in 1779, a sloop *Dolphin*, 4 guns and 14 men, commanded by a Capt. A. BURNHAM—but, as there were several sloops having this name, as well as many seamen of the Burnham name in Wethersfield, at this time, it is not possible to certainly credit this sloop, or her master to Wethersfield.

We have also found mention of the privateer sloop *Active*, 10 guns and 60 men, C. BUCKLEY, Captain; and of the schooner *Experiment*, 12 guns and 80 men, E. BULKLEY, captain, and the brig *Marshall*, 14 guns and 80 men, E. BULKLEY, which look very much like Wethersfield concerns.<sup>1</sup>

The schooner *Fair Trader* which, in 1782, was privateering, with 4 guns and 14 men, was a Wethersfield vessel and if so, JOHN WEBB commanded her. The General Assembly had ceased to permit privateering from this State, after 1780, for the reason that the rush to the sea was depleting the stock of able-bodied men needed for the army. But other States and the Continental Congress still permitted this mode of warfare, and probably, in some cases, old *letters of marque* were continued in force.

A thorough examination of Court records, the Council of Safety records, files of old newspapers (especially the *Connecticut Courant* and the *Connecticut Gazette*, this last published at New London), would reveal the names of other Wethersfield men and vessels engaged in privateering; but enough has been shown, we think to show that the old Town had its share of honor and profit in this privateering feature of the Revolutionary period.

#### WETHERSFIELD MEN IN THE CONTINENTAL NAVY.

At the outbreak of the War of the Revolution there existed no American Navy, as such; and the only war vessels in commission on the patriot side were a few which had been purchased, chartered or constructed by the governments of some of the seaboard States; or, a little later, by the efforts of the Naval Committees of the Continental Congress. The first armed vessels provided by Connecticut in the Revolution were the brigantine *Minerva*, and the sloop *Spy*. Later, we find

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trunnions and not mounted on carriages, but on a pivot or "swivel" so that they might be turned and aimed quickly in any direction—hence the name. These privateers' swivels were made by the State, at the foundry at Salisbury and, like most of the ordnance of that day, were not of first-class quality.

in service the *Defense* (built in 1748) and a new brig-of-war, by the same name; the State man-of-war *Oliver Cromwell*, built at Saybrook in 1776, the Continental frigate *Trumbull*, built at Chatham on the Connecticut River, in 1777; also the frigate *Confederacy*, built on the Thames, in 1778.

The "old *Defense*" referred to above was commanded, in May, 1744, by JEDIDIAH DUDLEY, who had succeeded James Rogers. In 1748 she was purchased by Mr. Jabez Huntington, of Norwich, Conn., for the sum of £4,860. The inventory of her "war-like stores," made 26th November of that year, was as follows: 14 carriage guns, with carriages; 14 swivel guns; 236 swivel shot; 316 cannon shot; 65 double-head shot; 107 hand "grenadoes"; 10 small iron-crows; 47 lances; 5 crab-handspikes; 36 sponges, or rammers; 30 w<sup>t</sup> langrel; 1 chain and grapling; 19 shackles; 1 caboose iron; 97 small guns; 91 pistols; 91 cartouch boxes; 97 cutlasses; 4 priming wires; sundry items, in powder-horns, etc. Both the *Defence* and *Spy* were old merchantmen, remodelled for war purposes.

This was probably the same *Defence*, chartered by the State, which cruised off Boston in the fall of '76 and captured several valuable prizes, and also engaged in sharp and successful actions with Capt. Harding's and other British vessels. In April, '78, she and the *Cromwell* fought and captured the *Admiral Keppel* and *Cyrus*, English privateers, and brought them into Boston.<sup>1</sup>

In the whole course of the war, Connecticut contributed 26 vessels—including those built by the State, as well as those constructed by the Committees of Congress; and several which were not completed in time to be put in service; and also including three war-galleys having each 60 feet keel and a crew of 50 oarsmen—their only means of propulsion. Thus, Connecticut took a leading part in the naval operations of the war, and Wethersfield attained a greater prominence as a factor in these operations, than she ever has since in those of a like nature.

Among the sea-captains hailing from Wethersfield at the outbreak of Revolutionary hostilities, one WILLIAM GRISWOLD, of Stepney parish, stands out most prominently against the historic background. A descendant of Michael Griswold the settler, he was left an orphan, ran away and followed the seas, and while still quite a young man, visited London, where his manly and intelligent appearance captivated the affections of a Miss Martha Tapley, a lady of some wealth, whom he

<sup>1</sup> An interesting history of the *Defense* will be found in the *Hartford Courant*, of Dec. 4, 1884, in a paper read by Judge S. W. Adams before the Connecticut Historical Society Dec. 2, '84, entitled "The First Vessel of the Connecticut Navy."



married and with whom he returned to his native place, Rocky Hill. Here he built and was the owner of the brigantine *Minerva*, of 108 tons. When, in July, 1775, a committee of the Council of Safety, of Connecticut, was sent out to look up vessels suitable to be converted into war vessels, their choice fell upon the *Minerva*; and, accordingly, on August 31st of that year, she was chartered by the State, at the rate of £37 11s per month; Capt. Giles Hall, of Wallingford (who had commanded Connecticut's only war vessel, the *Defence*, twenty years before), was placed in command; and under his and Capt. Griswold's supervision she was fitted out (partly at Rocky Hill—where, probably, her sides were pierced with port-holes for her guns) and she took on her ammunition at Middletown—powder and balls from New London, and 300 pounds of lead from Wethersfield. In September, 1775, Peter Goodrich of Middletown, Upper Houses, had prepared 5,425 pounds of bread for the *Minerva*, when, just as he was about to send it aboard, his house was destroyed by fire, and with it the bread. By October, the vessel—manned with 40 seamen and marines, and a full complement of commissioned and non-commissioned officers, was ordered upon a cruise; whereupon the crew (with exception of 10 or 12 men), refused to do duty. In extenuation of this mutiny, it must be remembered that Connecticut, at that time, was still a British Colony—war not having as yet been declared. The Colonists, up to this time had been acting simply upon the defensive, and the sending out of this *first* war vessel by the Colony was probably deemed uncalled for by the situation. However, a new crew was soon procured, and the vessel, having been supplied with provisions by Jeremiah Wadsworth, of Hartford, proceeded on a six months' cruise, which ended without any extraordinary event, save that Capt. Ephraim Bill (afterwards commander of the *Oliver Cromwell*) was placed in command. Upon her return from the cruise, June, 1776, she was relieved of her armament at New Haven and re-delivered to her owner at Rocky Hill. While at New Haven, four of her guns, with some ammunition, were transferred to the State war-galley *Whiting*; and later in the year, six of her guns were taken and fitted to carriages, as field pieces. But, in April, 1778, the *Minerva* appears as the property of the State, and in March of the same year, the State had sold Capt. Griswold sixteen four-pounders and six-pounders from its foundry at Salisbury. So that it may be inferred that Capt. Griswold first fitted out the vessel for war purposes, and then sold her to the State. In 1781, she was owned, or held under charter by the United States; she then carried 16 guns and a crew of 100 men, and was again under command of

Capt. Giles Hall. Later, she was commanded by Capt. DUDLEY SALTONSTALL, and her crew was 120 men. Whether she carried heavier guns than at first, is not known; but, as nine-pounders were the heaviest generally carried by our war vessels—as against the 24-pounders of some of the British men-of-war, the *Minerva* had but little chance to cope with any, but the smaller of the enemy's vessels.

Captain Griswold, during the Revolutionary period, was largely engaged in ship-building and mercantile operations at Rocky Hill, and, perhaps, at the Cove, in Wethersfield. He was, also, a partner with Capt. Barnabas Deane, Capt. John Wright and Capt. Justus Riley; and perhaps, in that fact lies the reason why he did not take the command of the *Minerva* when she became the first war vessel sent out by the Colony, in that war. He built and resided in the large red house which, some years ago, became, in a remodelled form, Green's Hotel, at Rocky Hill.

[Capt. MOSES TRYON was another native of Wethersfield, of whom we would gladly know more than we do. He was born in the Village of Wethersfield, November 18, 1750, and his ancestors for several generations had been Wethersfield people. It is probable that he was bred to the mercantile profession, and, as was quite common in those days, became a supercargo, or master of some vessel plying between Connecticut and the West Indies.

He served an excellent apprenticeship in the seamanship of war, as captain of the *Jason*, brig of 10 guns and 25 men. This vessel was builded and owned at Rocky Hill, and was probably the same which, during a part of the same war, was commanded by Capt. Stillman, a noted veteran sea-captain of Wethersfield. The absence of any Navy-List prior to 1816, precludes our knowing when he entered the United States Navy, but it was probably not much earlier than 1794, at which date our Navy was first placed upon a permanent basis. He also served in other privateer vessels during the Revolutionary War. After the close of the war, and in 1798, at the age of 48, he was commissioned a captain in the United States Navy, the highest rank then attainable in the service. In the squadron of Barry and Decatur, he commanded the *Connecticut*, 24 guns, built at Middletown, Conn., by the United States and was distinguished for bravery and ability in the war with the Barbary powers. His vessel was a companion of the *Philadelphia*, commanded by Commodore Stephen Decatur; and it related that once, when their vessels met, Decatur asked of Tryon, if his vessel was "a good sailor"? Tryon replied, "she will sail with picaroons," alluding to a class of French privateers which he had

lately been overhauling. "Are you disposed to try it?" asked Decatur. "If you please, Sir," was the answer. The sailing match came off, and the *Connecticut* twice ran the *Philadelphia* "hull down." The next day Decatur entertained Capt. Tryon and his officers on the *Philadelphia*, and jocosely proposed to exchange ships with him. In 1800, Tryon was still in command of the *Connecticut*, in the West India squadron, then engaged in the capture of French privateers. Upon the reduction of the Navy, in 1801, Capt. Tryon was of those dropped from the rolls. He was probably in poor health, as he died in 1817, and was buried in Wethersfield. His monument bears the following inscription: "Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of Capt. MOSES TRYON, U. S. N., born 18th November, 1750. He sustained the various relations of life with dignity and usefulness. In the duties of private life, he was faithful, just and benevolent. As a Naval Officer vigilant and brave. As a Citizen firmly attached to the liberties, and devoted to the laws of his country. Of unblemished morals, a firm believer and a humble disciple of Jesus Christ, he resigned his soul to God, 27th December, 1817. "The memory of the just is blessed."

A rare little volume entitled *The Wandering Boy, Careless Sailor, and Result of Inconsideration*. A true narrative, by Horace Lane,

\* \* \* (Skaneateles; printed for the author by Luther A. Pratt, 1839, 12mo., pp. 224), preserves for us a picture of Capt. Moses Tryon and an estimate of his character which we are glad to have. The author, a wandering laddie of about ten years in May, 1799, became a cabin boy on the new U. S. ship *Connecticut*, then first launched and fitted out at Middletown, Conn., under the command of Capt. Tryon. Immediately after her launch and by some mismanagement, she capsized and filled with water, and when freed from it, and again able to float, she proceeded to New London, where they took in ballast, stores, arms and ammunition, recruited and set out for the West Indies, to operate against the French privateers there annoying our commerce, and to which he says "she soon became a terror." Capt. Tryon seems to have had a fatherly care for his little cabin boy, who says: "He was truly my friend—one of the finest men as to morals, that ever crossed the ocean; his name was Moses Tryon, his dwelling was in Wethersfield, Conn. Often, when the ship was riding majestically through the waves, he would call me to him, tell me how to behave myself in order to become a noble character, and point out to me in the most pellucid colors that language could exhibit, the fatal consequences of vain habits; adding, 'What a fine thing it would be

for you to have command of such a ship as this, when you became a man!' This language to me was as vanity and folly; and I told him that it was impossible, for my father was a poor man, etc. He endeavored to convince me of my mistake, but all his efforts to save me were useless and lost."

On this cruise, Lane says the *Connecticut* took four French privateers, retook seven merchantmen, chased one ashore and burned her, and chased several others on shore under the French batteries, which protected them from seizure.

Capt. Tryon resided in the house next north of the meeting-house, one of those burned in the conflagration of 1833. He had a son Moses, who is said to have removed to Rochester, N. Y. See *Genealogies*, Vol. II.—*H. R. S.*]

There was a Lieut. ISAAC BUCK, U. S. N., in 1781; and, as so large a proportion of the Buck surname are descendants either of Emanuel or Henry Buck—the Wethersfield settlers, we may reasonably claim him as of Wethersfield origin. In 1777, the war brig *America*, then stationed off Fairfield, was commanded by one who bore so good a Wethersfield name as JOHN NOTT.

That BENJAMIN CATLIN (Sergeant in Capt. Chester's company at Bunker Hill, and taken a prisoner in the Quebec campaign of '75), subsequently became a man-of-war's man, is known from his own letters. In July, 1777, he wrote from on board the frigate *Trumbull*, "We live in clover, assure you, the most agreeable life I ever lived"—and adds a request (to Mr. Samuel Boardman, his old master) that some boards be saved, so that he can finish his house, when he returns home. He was probably a warrant officer; or an officer in the marine corps.



A LIST OF PERSONS, IDENTIFIED, EITHER BY BIRTH, OR RESIDENCE,  
WITH WETHERSFIELD, WHO SERVED IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLU-  
TION.

Compiled from authentic Official<sup>1</sup> and Historical Sources,

BY HENRY R. STILES, M. D.

Great care has been taken to insert in this list, the names only of those who *actually* served, either in the Continental Line, or in details of Militia regiments. Names found upon the rolls of the *Alarm List* of the Sixth Militia Regiment, have also been included—since, as these Alarm Lists (See p. 465) formed a *militia reserve* for sudden calls, or emergencies, their members were liable for field duty, and were probably often so employed—though no official record may remain to show the nature, or extent, of such duty.

Owing to the great number of cases in which persons of the same name were living in the old township, it has been difficult to distinguish whether they belonged to Wethersfield proper, or to its other parishes, Stepney (now the Town of Rocky Hill), or Newington parish, now the town of the same name. The MSS. of DR. R. W. GRISWOLD has helped us somewhat as to Stepney; the Historical Address of ROGER WELLES, Esq., as to Newington; and DR. CHAPIN'S *Glastonbury Centennial* as to that town. So that, we trust, our list will be found, as our endeavor has been to make it, a fairly reliable list of Wethersfield's contributions towards the independence of our country.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS CHAPTER.

<i>acc.</i> —according to	<i>cr.</i> —credited	<i>L. I.</i> —Long Island
<i>add.</i> —additional	<i>complx.</i> —complexion	<i>Memb.</i> —member
<i>app.</i> —appointed	<i>d.</i> —died	<i>Mil.</i> —Militia
<i>batt.</i> —battalion	<i>des.</i> —deserted	<i>Must.</i> —mustered
<i>bd.</i> —bound	<i>disch.</i> —discharged	( <i>N.</i> )—Newington
<i>biog.</i> —biography	<i>drag.</i> —dragoons	<i>org.</i> —organization
<i>brig.</i> —brigade, or brigadier	<i>eng.</i> —engaged	<i>poss.</i> —possibly
<i>Capt.</i> —captain	<i>enl.</i> —enlisted	<i>pris.</i> —prisoner
<i>Co.</i> —company	<i>ens.</i> —ensign	<i>prob.</i> —probably
<i>Col.</i> —colonel	<i>exc.</i> —exchanged	<i>prom.</i> —promoted
<i>Conn.</i> —Connecticut	( <i>Glast.</i> )—Glastonbury	<i>Q. M.</i> —quarter master
<i>comm.</i> —commission	<i>H. C.</i> —Harvard College	<i>reg.</i> —regiment
<i>Commiss.</i> —Commissary	<i>Lex.</i> —Lexington	<i>rep.</i> —representative
<i>Cont.</i> —Continental	<i>Lieut.</i> —Lieutenant	<i>res.</i> —resigned
<i>corp.</i> —corporal	<i>Lt.</i> —Light	<i>res'd.</i> —resided

<sup>1</sup> Especially *The Record service of Connecticut men in the Military and Naval service during the War of the Revolution, 1775-1783*, edited by Henry P. Johnston, A. M., and published by the State; and F. B. Heitmans' *List of Regular Officers in the Continental Army*, 1893.

<i>Sgt.</i> —sergeant	<i>trans.</i> —transferred	<i>Weth.</i> —Wethersfield
<i>schr.</i> —schooner	<i>vol.</i> —volunteer	<i>Y. C.</i> —Yale College
<i>slp.</i> —sloop	<i>wd.</i> —wounded	<i>yrs.</i> —years
( <i>S.</i> )—Stepney	<i>West.</i> —Westchester	

- ADAMS, AMASA, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; in Capt. E. Wright's (3d Co.) 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- ANDREWS, JOSEPH, (poss. Glast.), enl. in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, May 11; prom. Corp. 20 Oct., disch. 17 Dec., 1776, present at Siege of Boston.
- ANDRUS, ASA, in Cont. service, 1778.—See p.
- ANDRUS, ABNER, in Cont. service, 1778.—See p. 466.
- ANDRUS, DANIEL, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- ANDRUS, JOHN, enl. in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3d Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- ANDRUS, JOSEPH, a 6 mos. recruit, 7 Aug., 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Magazine*.
- ANDRUS, MILES, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- ANDRUS, MOSES, must. in at Ft. Independence, Sept. 2, 1775.—See his letter, p.—Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- ANTHONY, JAMES, a 6 mo. recruit, 18 July, 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- ATWOOD, JOHN, (*S.*), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- ATWOOD, JOSEPH, a 6 mos. recruit, 18 July, 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- BACON, RICHARD, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; enl. Capt. Wyll's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 8th May, 1777, for the war; pris. Dec. 10, 1777; rejoined 1778.
- BALCH, JONATHAN, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. in Capt. Chester's (9th Co.) 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 11 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1776, at Boston.
- BALDWIN, NATHANIEL, 6 mos. recruit, 23 July-4 Dec., 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- BARCE, MICHAEL, enl. in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn., Reg., Col. Spencer, 13 May, disch. 5 July, 1776, before Boston.
- BARNES, JOHN, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.—See *Barnes Genealogy*. A John Barnes, who was one of 22 capt. by the Br. from the Weth. vessel *Gen. Greene* in 1782; d. in N. Y., a prisoner.—*Step. Ch. Rec.*
- BARTON, JOSEPH, in Col. Canfield's Mil. Reg., at West Point, Sept., 1782.
- BELDEN, ELISHA, (*S.*), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.  
June, 1778.
- BELDEN, ABRAHAM, was in Cont. service, 1778.
- BELDEN, BENJAMIN, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.
- BELDEN, ELISHA, (*S.*), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- BELDEN, EZEKIEL PORTER, (Capt. in Cont. Drag.), son of Thomas, grad. Y. C. 1775; 2d Lieut. in Capt. Johnson's Co., Col. Bradley's State Reg., Wadsworth's Brig., 20 June-Dec., 1776; an org. of Col. Sheldon's 2d Reg. Lt. Drag., was app. Lieut., 20 Dec., 1776; prom. Capt., 7 Apl., 1777; was prob. at Germantown, where a part of his reg. was eng.; subsequently served along the Hudson, in West. Co., N. Y., and in West. Conn.; was in several

skirmishes, etc.; res. 10 June, 1780; after his return to civil life became a prominent citizen in Weth.; was repeatedly chosen Selectman, elected Town Clerk in 1812, and held that office until his death; was a memb. of about all the Town Comm's; Justice of the Peace, and rep. Weth. in 49 sessions of the Legislature, being also elected to two more which he declined to serve in; was for some years Lt.-Col. of the Sixth Militia Reg; a kind, social gentleman, ready and active in pub. affairs; one of the orig. Weth. mem. of the Society of the Cincinnati.—See *Yale Biog.*, p. 305.

- BELDEN, EZRA, in Capt. Hez. Welles' 4th Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- BELDEN, JOHN, (Capt.), (S.), Major in Sixth Mil. Reg., 1778; app. Lieut. of Co. for service at Peekskill, N. Y., in Col. N. Hooker's Batt., Dec., 1776; prom. Major, Jan., 1778; prom., Lieut.-Col., Jan., 1780, in Sixth Mil. Reg., org. of 1776-'83, *via* Woodbridge resigned.
- BELDEN, JONATHAN, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- BELDEN, MOSES, in Cont. service Aug., 1778.—See p. 466.
- BELDEN, RICHARD, in Cont. service Aug., 1778; pens.; see p. 466; (d. 31 Jan., 1848, from protracted infirmities.—R. W. G.)
- BELDEN, THOMAS, pr. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; app. Lieut., in Sixth Mil. Reg., 1780, succeeded by Howell Woodbridge, of Glast.
- 1775; prom. Major 1776; prom. Lt.-Col., May, 1777; prom. Col., Jan.,
- BECKLEY, BENJAMIN, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; Lieut. in 8th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., 1781.
- BECKLEY, ELIAS, Capt. of 8th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., 1781.
- BECKLEY, JOHN, 3rd Lieut., Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; Lieut. in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- BECKLEY, RICHARD, enl. 26 Feb., 1778, in Capt. Savage's Co.
- transf. to Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., May 1, 1780; disch. 1 Jan., 1781.
- BECKLEY, SOLOMON, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- BENTON, AMOS, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.
- BENTON, JOHN, Corpl. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. May 10th, 1775, in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer; disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston; prom. Corpl., 20 Oct.
- BEWERS, JONATHAN, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, May 12; disch. 4 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- BIDWELL, DAVID, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- BIDWELL, EPHRAIM, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.
- BIDWELL, ISAAC, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8th May; disch. 16 Nov., 1775, before Boston.
- BIDWELL, THOMAS, (poss. of Glast.) in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- BIGELOW, ALVIN, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- BLACKLEY, ENOS, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, May 12; disch. Nov. 18 (or 8), 1775, before Boston.
- BLINN, ABRAHAM, (S.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, May 13, disch. 13 Sept., 1775, before Boston.
- BLINN, HEZEKIAH, (S.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 13 May, disch. 25 Oct., 1775, before Boston. A *Hezekiah B.*, and

his son *Zerah*, of 22 men taken by the British from the Weth. privateer *Gen. Greene*, d. in N. Y., prisoners.—*Step. Ch. Rec.*

BLINN, PETER, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.

BOARDMAN, BENAJAH, Sgt. in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.

BOARDMAN, ELIJAH, b. 1756; in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; (served at Siege of Boston, and was taken prisoner at N. Y.—*R. W. G.*); Sgt. in Capt. Watson's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., enl. for the war, 22 Apl., 1777; prom. Sgt., 20 Nov., 1777; cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778; Ens. 4th Co., 1st Mil. Reg. from Weth., Jan., 1780; later rem. to Htfd., where he became keeper of the gaol.

BOARDMAN, ISAAC, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; in same reg. Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777; enl. 4 Sept., 1777, in Capt. Wilcox's Co., Corps of Artificiers, Col. Baldwin, for 3 yrs.; d. 1779.

BOARDMAN, LEONARD, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Mch.-June, 1777, at Peekskill, N. Y.

BOARDMAN, LEVI, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.

BOARDMAN, RETURN, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

BOARDMAN, SAMUEL, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 15 May, disch. 12 Oct., 1775, before Boston.

BOARDMAN, SETH, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 9 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston; was engaged in action at Bunker's Hill; enl. in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777; wd. at Stillwater, N. Y., 1777.

BOWERS, BENAJAH,—“a soldier of the Rev. res'd many yrs. where Chas. Butler did W. of Louis Deming's; doubtful if he was a Rocky Hill man.”—*R. W. G.*

BRADLEY, GEORGE, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

BRIGDEN, MICHAEL, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

BROOKS, ELIJAH, (poss. Glast.) in Capt. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.

BROOKS, ELIZUR, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.

BROOKS, JONATHAN, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777; in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.

BROOKS, LEVI, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 9 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.

BROOKS, THOMAS, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn., Reg., Col. Spencer, 6 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston; was in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.

BROOKS, TIMOTHY, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 11 May, disch. 10 Dec., 1778, before Boston.

BROWN, EDWARD, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 11 May, disch. 10 Dec., 1778, before Boston.

BROWN, EDWARD, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 9 May, disch. 19 Oct., 1775; enl. for the war in Capt. Hart's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 25 Jan., 1777; cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778; transf. to Invalid Corps, 5 Apl., 1781.



- BROWN, HENRY, (N.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- BUCK, AMOS, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.
- BUCK, DANIEL, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- BUCK, DAVID, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; of Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on board sloop *Anne*, bd. to N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- BUCK, JESSE, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.
- BUCK, JONATHAN, app. Ens., 2d Co., 3d Reg. Vols., June, 1776.
- BULKELEY, BURRAGE, one of the 22 men taken from the privateer brigantine, *Gen. Greene*, 1782, by the British; d. in N. Y., a prisoner.
- BULKELEY, C. (Capt.), sloop *Active*.—See p.
- BULKELEY, EDWARD, (S.), son of Chas., gd-s. of Edward; b, 1741; d. 30 June, 1781; Ens. 10th Cont. Inf., 1 Jan., 1776; 1st Lieut. 3d Co., Chester's Batt. Vols., Wadsworth's Brig., June, 1776; Capt. in Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., Comm., dated 1 Jan., 1777; taken pris. on Exp. to L. I., 10 Dec., 1777, (*Heitman* says at Batt. L. I., 27 Aug., 1776), exch. 17 Dec., 1780, transf. to and Capt. in 3d Reg., Conn. Line; Brig.-Maj., Feb.-Aug., 1782; served until 3 June, 1783.
- BULKELEY, FRANCIS, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 12 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- BULKELEY, GILES, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.
- BULKELEY, JOHN, enl. 6 June, 1777, for war; Capt. Robt. Warner's Return of Non-effectives, 4th Co., 3d Conn. Reg., served since 1 Jan., 1777; d. 25 Dec., 1778.—*Conn. Mag.*
- BULKELEY, JOSEPH, Capt. of privateer schooner *Experiment*, 1780.
- BULKELEY, LEVI, a 6 mos. recruit, 18 July, 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg't.—*Conn. Mag.*
- BULKELEY, SOLOMON, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; app. Lieut. in 4th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., June, 1776.
- BULL, ROGER, (S.), in Lex., Alarm Co., 1775; app. Co. Clerk; app. May, 1776, Ens. in Co. for service at New Haven and New London.
- BUNCE, JARED, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 12 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston; er. to Cont. Army, 1778.
- BUNCE, THOMAS, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; of Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. of sloop *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776; d. at Rocky Hill (West Dist.), 1820, ae. 72.
- BURNHAM, JAMES, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 11 May, disch. 7 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- BURNHAM, A. (Capt.), sloop *Dolphin*, 1779.
- BURNHAM, JOHN, of Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co. on board sloop *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- BURNHAM, ORRIN, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 15 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- BUTLER, CHARLES, (S.) Sgt. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; comm'd at Bunker Hill, 1 May, 1775; Ens. in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, disch. 10 Dec., 1775; 2d Lieut. 22d Cont. Inf., 1 Jan.-31 Dec, 1776; 1st Lieut. in Capt. Chester Welles' Co. Col. Baldwin's Reg. at Peekskill, April 23-May 10, 1777.
- BUTLER, EDWARD, (Capt.) orig. memb. of Soc. Cincinnati.
- BUTLER, HEZEKIAH, Corp. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; Sgt. of Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. Slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776

- BUTLER, JOHN, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 13 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- BUTLER, JOSEPH, Corp. of Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. Slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y. Aug., 1776.
- BUTLER, JOSEPH, Corp. of Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., May, 1777.
- CAMP, JAMES, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Welles' Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-March, 1776.
- CATLIN, BENJAMIN, Corp. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; Sgt. enl. in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co. 2nd Conn. Reg. Col. Spencer, May 9, disch. 9 Sept. 1775, before Boston; Q. M. in Arnold's Quebec Expedition, 1775, pris. at Q. 31 Dec. 1775, exch. 11 Jan. 1777, later was in naval service.
- CHAPIN, (Rev.) CALVIN, (S), afterwards pastor (tho' not then a res.) of Stepney, served as fifer in the Rev. War, at age of 10 or 12, in Capt. John Pratt's Co., who res. in N. W. part of Cromwell.
- CHESTER, JOHN, Capt. in Sixth Mil. Reg. (See p. 439) and Capt. of the Weth. Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; Capt. of 9th Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, comm'd 1 May, at Bunker Hill (in which fight he and his Co. took a part (see p. 442) disch. 17 Dec., 1775; re-enl. 1776; was Maj. of Sixth Mil. Reg. in Col. Wolcott's Brig. before Boston; prom. Maj. and later Col. in Wadsworth's Brig. See page for his military history, services and character; in the re-organization of 1775-83, was app. Lieut.-Col. of Sixth Mil. Reg., but declined and was succeeded by Howell Woodbridge.
- CHURCHILL, CHARLES, Lieut. in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., State troops, Jan.-Mch., 1776, before Boston; January, 1779, Capt. 2d Reg., 1st Mil. Brig. with his men were allowed by the Gen. Assemb. compensation for service as a guard to a train of artillery.
- CHURCHILL, JOSEPH, Lieut. 6th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg. on duty at New London; Lieut. in same Co. May, 1781.
- CHURCHILL, NATHANIEL, (N.) in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch., '76; comm'd in a Co. "for State defence" May, 1777; May, 1778, app. Lieut. in 4th Co. Alarm list, 15th Reg.; was in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.
- CHURCHILL, SAMUEL, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776; in Capt. Chester Welles' Co. Col. Belden's Reg. Wolcott's Brig. at Peekskill, N. Y. Mch.-June, 1777.
- CHURCHILL, SAMUEL, JR., same service record as the above in Capt. Hez. Welles' Co.
- CLAPP, ROGER, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- CLARK, CHARLES, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777; a 6 mos. recruit, Aug., 18-4 Dec., 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- CLARK, JAMES, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- CLARK, ROGER, same service record as Charles, above.
- CLARK, WILLIAM, cr. to Cont. service, Aug. 1778; enl. in 1st Troop, Col. Shelden's Drag., 1 May, '78; described as farmer, dark complexion, brown hair, black eyes.
- CLOUGH, . . . . . , in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co. 3rd Batt. at West Point June, 1778.
- COLE, ABNER, in the Conn. line from 1 Jan.-June, 1783; retired with the army at close of war.
- COLE, GIDEON, (S.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 May, disch. 10 Dec. 1775, before Boston.

- COLE, SAMUEL, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776.
- COLEMAN, NATHANIEL, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 12 May, disch. 12 Sept., 1775; before Boston; taken pris. at Quebec (Arnold's exp.) not named in Capt. Hanchett's list, but reported on payrolls (or pay-table accounts) as having marched with the exp.
- COLEMAN, ZADOCK, pr. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; sailor on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y. Aug. 1776; in Capt. Chester Welles' Co. Col. Belden's Reg. Wolcott's Brig. Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.
- COLLINS, ROBERT, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., March-June, 1777.
- COLLINS, JOHN, Dep. Commissary of Mil. Stores. Col. Flowers' Artificiers. Engaged 1 Jan., 1777.—*Conn. Mag.*
- COLTON, WILLIAM, Corp. in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig. at Peekskill, N. Y., 22 April-May, 1777.
- CONE, JOSHUA, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Wells' (4th) Co. Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776; cr. to Cont. army, Aug. 1778.
- COVEL, JOEL, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co.; Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- COVEL, MATTHEW, in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- COVEL, SAMUEL, app. Capt. 6th Co., Sixth Mtl. Reg. May, 1782.
- COOMBS, (*Capt.*) commanded privateer schr. *Independence*, 1778. See p. 499.
- CRANE, DAVID, (s. or of Benjamin), b. 1742; Corp. in Capt. Dickinson's Co., Col. Elmore's Regt., 24 June, 1776; enl. Jan., 1777, from Sandisfield, Mass., for 3 years, in Capt. Allens' Co., Col. Wigglesworth's Reg.; private in Capt. Noah Allen's Co., same Reg., 28 May to 29 Jan., 1781; was then 39 yrs. old; was also in Capt. Ebenezer Smith's Co., 6th Reg. at Valley Forge, Mch.-May, 1778; at Providence, R. I. 1779; at West Point May, 1781; d. 1820 at Sandisfield. (*Crane Geneal.*)
- CRANE, ABRAHAM.
- CRANE, ELIJAH, in Lex. Alarm, fm. Pittsfield to Boston, Apl. 1775; enl. 5 May, disch. Corp. 8 Oct., 1775, in Capt. Beardsly's Co. 5th Reg.; served in N. Y., and in Northern Dep't; again enl. 12 Aug., 1776, in Capt. Fuller's Co., 13 Conn. Mil., disch. 4 Sept., 1776; served 4 days at Bennington, Vt.—*Crane Genealogy*, p. 59.
- CRANE, JOHN, enl. 11 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, Capt. O. Hanchetts' Co., 2d Reg., Col. Spencer—served in and about Boston, was prob. at Bunker Hill.—*Crane Genealogy*, p. 55.
- CRANE, JOSEPH, in Capt. Chester's 9th Co., Col. Spencer's Reg.; enl. 3 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775.—*Crane Genealogy*, p. 60.
- CRANE, JOSEPH, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co. 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, before Boston, 3d May, disch. 17 Dec. 1775.
- CRANE, CURTIS (N.) enl. Capt. Wooster's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Reg. 22 Mch. 1778, for the war. His wid. a pensioner from 1837 to death.—See *Crane Genealogy*, p. 56.
- CRANE, WILLIAM, pr. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. 9th Co. (Capt. Chester), 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 May, deserted 1 Dec., 1775. [A note to this name (page 52 of *Conn. Men in Revol. Service*—official, pub. by State of Conn.) explains this so-called "desertion."—"A number of men entered as deserters, about Dec. 1, 1775, afterwards explained in petitions, that they

had no intention of deserting, but believed that their time had expired that day, instead of on the 10th. The Assembly ordered that they be paid for their full time. Among those was William Crane of Weth, whose mother, (Lydia Crane) states in a petition that she had three sons in the service in 1775; the eldest died in camp; the second, prob. Joseph Crane, 9th Co., 2d Conn. Reg., returned, and the third, WILLIAM, who had fought at Bunker Hill, under Capt. Chester, left his Reg. about Nov. 30, 1775, supposing his time was up—was taken down with a fever on his way home, wandered in his delirium to Leicester, Mass. and died there.] The *Crane Genealogy* (p. 57) states that Mr. Crane died May 25, 1818, at Great Barrington, Mass. where he had settled after the war. It says, that "a careful examination of the Records at Leicester, Mass., failed to disclose the record of the death of this Mrs. Crane, and it is quite probable that the good mother was misinformed at that time, and that her son William recovered and re-enlisted, being in service at the time of her petition. The means of getting information from any considerable distance in those days were such that it wouldn't be strange if conflicting reports had reached Wethersfield about these supposed deserters, and that this widowed mother, who had furnished three soldiers to the army, all the sons she had, was easily led to believe that the youngest was dead."

CROLY, ———, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 18 May, disch. 17 Dec. 1775, before Boston.

CROSBY, THOMAS, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 15 May, disch. 17 Dec. 1775, before Boston.

CURTIS, DANIEL, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 10 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.

CURTIS, EBENEZER, of Capt., Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. the slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug. 1776; in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.

CURTIS, HARRY, enl. in 4th Troop, Col. Sheldon's Lt. Drag., 2 May, 1780, described as a tailor, 5 ft. 5 in. in height, dark complexion, sandy hair; d. 12 Nov. 1780.

CURTIS, EPHRAIM.

CURTIS, SAMUEL, Corp., in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.

CURTIS, JAMES, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan-March, 1776.

CURTIS, JOSEPH, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.

CURTIS, LEVI, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co. Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan-March, 1776.

CURTIS, WILLIAM, in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co. 3rd Batt. at West Point, June 1778, in Capt. Wooster's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg. enl. Feb. 28, for the war; Corp., 1st June, 1780.

A. William C. was one of the 22 men capt. by the Brit. from the (Weth.) brigantine *Gen. Greene* (privateer), 1782, and d. in N. Y. prison.—*Step. C. R.*

DAVIS, SAMUEL, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Aug., 1776.

DAVIS, SAMUEL, in Lex. Alarm Co., enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2 Conn. Reg. Col. Spencer, 11, disch. 10 Dec., 1775, before Boston; in Capt. Hez. Welles' Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston Jan.-Mch., 1776.

DEANE, BARNABAS, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; 1st Lieut. in Col. Sheldon's Lt. Drag.



- DELLABOR, (*Dalliber, Dallaby*), JOHN, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 10 May, disch. 10 Dec. 1775, before Boston.
- DELLABOR, JONATHAN, (poss. the above John) pr. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Sheldon's Lt. Drag., 27 Dec. 1776; described as a cooper, 5 ft. 3 in. in height, dark complexion, blue eyes, dark hair.
- DELLABOR, THOMAS (?).
- DELLING, SAMUEL, (poss. Glast.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 May, disch. 1 Dec. 1775, before Boston.
- DICKINSON, EBENEZER, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776; Lieut. in 8th Co. Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm List, Oct., 1780; Lieut. 5th Co., same Reg., May, 1781.
- DICKINSON, JOHN, of Weth. appears in the Middlesex Co. of Sixth Mil. Reg.
- DICKINSON, LEVI, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776.
- DICKINSON, NATHANIEL, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig. Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.
- DICKINSON, OZIAS, service record same as Nathaniel's above.
- DICKINSON, WAITSTILL, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., ("took Seymour's place") 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 20 Oct., disch. 30 Nov., 1775, before Boston, enl. 21 July, 1778, for the War, among "non-com. officers and musicians" in Capt. Walker's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg.; prom. Corp., Jan., 1779; prom. Sgt., 12 July, 1781; cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778; was in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778
- DEMING, AARON, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- DEMING, DANIEL, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- DEMING, DANIEL, 2d, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y. Aug. 1776.
- DEMING, DAVID, Lieut. in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., 22 April-10 May, 1777; Lieut. 2d Co., Cont. Line, Jan., 1780; one of the same name a 6 mos. recruit, 18 July-Dec. 4, 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- DEMING, ELIAS, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- DEMING, ELIZUR, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- DEMING, EPHRAIM, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- DEMING, JONATHAN, Commis. 3d Reg., Putnam's Brig., Peekskill and Fishkill, N. Y., Oct., 1777.
- DEMING, JOHN, sailor on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776, with Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co.—one of same name a 6 mos. recruit, 18 July-14 Dec., 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- DEMING, JOSIAH, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- DEMING, JOSIAH, 2d, service record same as above.
- DEMING, JOSHUA, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- DEMING, LEMUEL, JR., in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- DEMING, LEAR, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- DEMING, RICHARD, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

- DEMING, SIMON, Sgt. in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Peekskill, N. Y., 22 Apl.,-10 May, 1777.
- DIMOCK, DAVID, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775, in Capt. Chester's Co.—R. W. G.
- DIX, BENJAMIN, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- DIX, CHARLES, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., Jan.-Mch., 1776, before Boston; Lieut. in 1st Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm. List., May, 1779; Lieut. in Col. Canfield's Mil. Reg., at West Point, Sept., 1781.
- DIX, ELISHA, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- DIX, JACOB, Ens. in 1st Co., Sixth Mil Reg., Alarm List, May, 1779.
- DIX, JESSE, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Peekskill, N. Y., Apl. 22-10 May, 1778.
- DIX, LEONARD, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 15 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- DIX, OZIAS, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Peekskill, N. Y., 22 Apl.-10 May, 1778.
- DOAL (Dole), JAMES, enl. 4th Troop, Col. Sheldon's Lt. (2d Cont.) Drag., 7 May, 1777, for the war; prom. Sgt., 1 May, 1778; prom. Sgt.-Maj., 1 Nov. (*Hietman* says 12 May), 1779; taken prisoner at Camden, N. J., Aug., 1780; exch. and prom. Cornet 2d Cont. Drag., 14 Jan., 1781; described as a farmer, height 5 ft. 9 in., sandy complex., grey eyes, sandy hair; served until end of war; undoubtedly the John *Douaal*, who enl. 6 June, 1777, for the war, and reported (prob. wrongly) as "deserted," Aug. 3, 1777.—*Conn. Mag.*
- DODGE, JOSEPH, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- DORMONT, STEPHEN, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- DOWL, JOHN, (poss. the John Doal, or Dole, above), cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- DUNHAM, CORNELIUS, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- DUNHAM, SOLOMON, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; app. Ens. in Sixth Mil. Reg., May, 1776.
- EVANS, BENJAMIN, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 May, disch. 10 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- FIELDS, PRESERVED, enl. 4th Troop, Col. Sheldon's Lt. (2d Cont.) Drag., 3 June, 1780; described as a tailor. 5 ft. 5 in. in height, dark eyes, sandy hair and complex., disch. for Wm. Morrison, 6 Apl., 1779.
- FLANNAGAN (*Flannakin*) BARNABAS, in Col. Canfield's Mil. Reg., at West Point, Sept., 1782.
- FLINT, ELIPHALET, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 or 9 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- FORBES, JOHN, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., at Peekskill, N. Y., 22 Apl.-10 May, 1777; cr. to Cont. Army, 1778.
- FLOWER, JOSEPH, a 6 mos. recruit, 18 Aug.-9 Dec., 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- FOSDICK, WILLIAM, fifer in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. as fifer in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 12 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- FOSTER, EDWARD, in Capt. Throop's Co., 1st Conn. Reg. Cont. Line, Col. Huntington; enl. 1 Jan., 1777, for the war, disch. 2 May, 1779.
- FOX, ASA, (poss. of Glast.—if so d. in service), Ens. 1st Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Feb., 1778; in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., June, 1778; transf. to Cont. Line.

- FOX, ROGER, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 May, killed in battle at Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775.
- FOX, SIMEON, (poss. of Glast.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 3 May, disch. 10 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- FRANCIS, ASA, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.
- FRANCIS, JOHN, 1st. Sgt. in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg. State Troops, before Boston, 1775-6; Ens. Comm., May, 1777, in batt. raised for "State Defense;" Ens. in Col. Enos' Reg., 1777; app. Ens. 2d Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm List, Jan., '78; comm. Lieut. in same Co., same yr.; 2d Lieut. in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., Col. Enos' Reg., in service on the Hunson, where they arrived in camp, 29 June, 1778; app. Lieut. in one of the "two reg. now to be raised," May, 1779, and served 1st Lieut. in Capt. Samuel Granger's Co., Col. Levi Welles' Reg., at Horse Neck and along the coast of L. I. Sound, during 1780; Capt. of the 1st Weth. Co., in Provisional Reg., 1781, and it is said of him by one who knew that he "was not absent from his command to exceed four months after he enlisted, during the war." Of himself he said "the proudest day of my life was when I marched at the head of my Co. of 101 men to the Weth. Church to take the oath."—(*Boardman Gen.*) He was Capt. in Jan., 1780, of 2d Co., Alarm List of the Sixth Mil. Reg.
- FRANCIS, JAMES, in Capt. Chester's Co., Lex. Alarm, and before Boston, May to Dec., 1775; in Capt. Chas. Webb's (Stamford) Co., Sept. to Dec., 1775, Capt. Leavenworth's Co., Nov., '76, to May, '80; First Troop, Jan., '77, 6 Nov., '80; from Weth. prom. in Capt. Stevens' Co., frm. June to Nov., 1776, Capt. Couch Co., from '76 to Jan. '77. Pensioner 1818. Corp. also 1832, Midd. Co. Several of name.
- FRANCIS, JUSTUS, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.
- FRANCIS, ROBERT, a 6 mos. recruit, 18 Aug., to Dec., 9, 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- FREEMAN, CAESAR, (S.), a slave, manumitted by Elias Williams, on condition of his serving in the army.
- FULLER, ABNER, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 12 May, 1775,—never joined.
- FULLER, FREDERICK, a 6 mos. recruit, 18 Aug.-Dec. 4, 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- GALE, NATHANIEL, ment. (in a letter from Moses Andrus to Samuel Boardman, of Weth.—in possession of Mr. W. F. J. Boardman, of Htfd.) as being near him at Fort Independence, 21 Sept., 1776.
- GIBBS, JONAS CLARK, (S.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 10 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- GIBBS, JACOB, (S.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 10 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- GIBSON, JOHN, in Col Canfield's Mil. Reg. at West Point, Sept., 1782,—poss. the same as the John *Gipson*, who was a 6 mos. recruit, 18 Aug.-14 Dec., 1779, in Col Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- GILLESPIE, WILLIAM, Sgt. 5th Troop, Col. Sheldon's Lt. (2d. Conn.) Drag., described as a farmer, 5 ft. 8 in. height, light complex., grey eyes, dark hair.
- GOFF, GIDEON, SEN., (S.), cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1775; enl. Capt. Alden's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 28 Feb., 1777; prom. Corp., 1 July, 1781; enl. for the war.

- GOFF, JOSIAH, Sgt., in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., at Peekskill, 22 Apl.-10 May, 1777.
- GOODRICH, ALLYN, in Capt. Chester's Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.
- GOODRICH, ASAHIEL, Sgt. in Henry Champion's Co., Col. Wylls' Reg. (3d Conn.), 1777 (?).—*Conn. Mag.*
- GOODRICH, DAVID, (S.), in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- GOODRICH, ELISHA.
- GOODRICH, EPHRAIM, deserted before 1 Jan., 1780, and not included in settlement for depreciation of their pay.—*Conn. Mag.*
- GOODRICH, ELIZUR, (S.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 15 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston; pr. in Capt. Hart's (3d) Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg., Jan.-Mch., 1777; Sgt. enl. in Lieut. David Smith's Co., Col. Belden's Reg., 13 Apl., disch. 19 May., 1777. As a mariner, he was known as "Capt." Goodrich. He also removed the lead weights from his then newly erected house in Weth. and made them into bullets, which he sent to Boston after the Battle of Lexington. He was an intimate friend of Col. John Chester, Hon. Silas Deane and other Weth. patriots, and had a high social standing.
- GOODRICH, HOSEA, (S.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 11 May, disch. 21 Oct., 1775, before Boston; in Capt. Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Peekskill, Mch.-June, 1777.
- GOODRICH, ICHABOD, (S.), cr. to Cont. Army, 1778.
- GOODRICH, ISAAC, (S.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 13 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775; Sgt. in Capt. Hale's Co. (Glast.?), Jan. to Mch., 1776; in Capt. E. Wright's Co., Nov., 1776; Comm. 1st Lieut. 3d Co., Capt. E. Wright's 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778; Lieut. 3d Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm List, May, 1780.
- GOODRICH, JACOB, fifer, Washington's Life Guard, 1779-1783.  
Guard; he d. at Rocky Hill, 24 Nov., 1833.
- GOODRICH, JARED, (S.), fifer 1st Cont. Reg.; transf. 1780, to Washington's Life

His services are thus fully stated in a petition for a pension, which was entirely in his own handwriting and which we have thus briefly condensed. [*H. R. S.*]

In Autumn of 1775, at ae. 14? enlisted as a musician under Lieut. Charles Butler of Weth. in a Glastonbury Co. in 3rd Conn. (Col. Samuel Wyll's Reg. f5r one yr. and upon being discharged at expiration of term of enlistment, he again enl. in the winter beginning 1777, for the war, in Capt. John Barnard's Co. of Htfd., same Reg. serving as fife major until after Burgoyne's defeat, (1779) when he was transferred to Gen. Washington's Life Guards, and served until end of the war, part of the time under Maj. Wm. Gibbs and part under Capt. Wm. Colfax, and, on the 3rd day of June, 1783, at Newburgh Headquarters, he received an honorable discharge and two badges of Merit—and as he pathetically adds "without a cent of money to bear my expenses home to my poor parents, who were anticipating help from their veteran sons, 3 in number, all of whom engaged during the war, and I am the only survivor of this poor unfortunate family—a war-worn and sea-worn object—living on a little ppy. belonging to my wife, who is destitute of a right hand since infancy. \* \* My life was exposed in many instances during the war, viz. on Dorchester Hill; at Flatbush on Long Island; on the retreat out of New York; at Ridgefield near Danbury; at Springfield, N. J.; at old Fort Independence, near Kingsbridge, N. Y. and at the siege of Yorktown. \* \* By arbitrary power my transfer reduced my wages from \$10 first month to \$7 and a third. From a note



appended to this statement by Dr. R. W. Griswold of Ry-Hill, we learn that Mr. Goodrich's appeal for a pension was not granted—the loss of the rolls at the time of his transfer to Washington's Life Guards having technically left him on record as a deserter—a misfortune which he often bitterly lamented.

Lines (apparently original) appended by Jared Goodrich of Rocky Hill, to his claim for a pension, for services in the War of the Revolution.

Oh! Washington, thou long lost Soldiers' friend,  
 Tho' sleeps thy dust, thy spirit needs't attend,  
 To prove the veterans sufferings in that war,  
 Sustained by many a victim, many a scar;  
 To assert thy childrens' rights in this late hour,  
 Of struggling nature 'gainst malignant power.  
 Full well thou knew'st—who went the nightly round,  
 Sounding the tattoo 'long the tented ground;  
 Who punctual rose, just at each dawning day,  
 And at thy door prolong'd the reveille;  
 Who bore the wounded from the field of blood,  
 Besmeared all over with the purple flood;  
 Who helped the surgeon probe the deadly wound,  
 And wrapped secure the swathing bandage round.

GOODRICH, JESSE, in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt. at West Point, June 1778.

GOODRICH, JOHN, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co. Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y. Aug. 1776.

GOODRICH, A JOHN Goodrich is advertised (with Levi Latimer) in *Conn. Courant*, Jan. 31, 1777, as deserter from Col. S. B. Webb's Batt. about 22 years old, about 5 ft. 3 in. high, dark complexion.

GOODRICH, JOSIAH, (Ens.) in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y. Aug. 1776; in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co. 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.

GOODRICH, JOSEPH, Sgt. of Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776; prob. the same Sgt. Joseph who was of Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Apl.-22-10 May, 1777.

GOODRICH, MOSES, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug. 1778.

GOODRICH, NATHANIEL, Corp. in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776; app. ens. May., 1778, of 2nd Co., Sixth Mil. Reg. Alarm list.

GOODRICH, OLIVER, Capt. of privateer schr. *Humbird*. 1778.

GOODRICH, OZIAS, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg. Col. Spencer, 12 May, disch. 17 Dec. 1775, before Boston; enl. in 3d Reg., Conn. Line, Col. Samuel Wylly's; prom. corp., 21 Jan., 1777; prom. Sgt. 1 Aug., 1778; app. ens. 24 Oct., 1780 (comm. dated 1 July, 1779); transf. as ens. to Capt. Heath's Co., 1st Reg. Conn. Line (yrs. of 1781-1783) Col. Durkee; was afterwards in Swift's Reg. and served until end of war; an orig. mem. of the Society of the Cincinnati.

GOODRICH, PHILER, (Philo?) a 6 mo's. recruit, 23 July-14 Dec., 1779 in Col. Webb's (9th Conn.)—*Conn. Mag.*

GOODRICH, ROSWELL, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co. Col. Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; fifer in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt.

West Point, June 1778; enl. 23 Aug. 1778 in Capt. Horton's Co. of Artificers, Col. Baldwin, for 3 years.

GOODRICH, SIMEON, a 6 mo's. recruit, 18 Aug.-9 Dec., 1779, in Col. Webb's Reg. (9th Conn.)—*Conn. Mag.*

GOODRICH, STEPHEN, (S.), 1st Lieut. Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. as Lieut. Capt. Chester's (9th Co.) 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 1 May; disch. 10 Dec., 1775, before Boston; 1st Lieut. 22d Cont. Inf., 1 Jan.-31 Dec., 1776; Capt.-Lieut. 3rd Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm list, May, 1780.

GOODRICH, TIMOTHY, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug. 1776.

GOODRICH, WAIT, Capt. app. Inspector of Gunpowder (one of 4) at May term 1778, of Gen. Assembly.

GOODRICH, WILLIAM, (S.), Capt. of *Minerva*.—See p.

GRANT, AZARIAH, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Reg., Col. Spencer, 9 May, disch. 10 Dec. 1775, before Boston.

GRIFFIN, SIMEON, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. in Capt. Bull's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 1 Mch., 1777, among "non-com. officers and musicians" for the war; prom. Qr.-Mas. Sgt., 16 May, 1778; prom to Qr.-Mas. Sgt. er. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.

GRISWOLD, CONSTANT, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 12 May; disch. 17 Dec., 1775.

GRISWOLD, JACOB, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig. Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777; enl. 1 June, 1777 in Capt. Bull's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg. for the war; taken pris. 10 Dec., 1777; exch. 15 July, 1778; disch. 14 Feb., 1781.

GRISWOLD, WILLIAM, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; of Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y. Aug. 1776; in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg. Wolcott's Brig. Peekskill, Mch.-June, 1777.

GRISWOLD, JOSIAH, pr. in Capt. Elijah Wright's Co., at White Plains, N. Y., June, 1778.

GRISWOLD, MOSES, cr. to Wethersfield in Cont. Army, 1778.

GROGAN, JOHN, enl. 3 June, 1777 for war, deserted 22 Sept. 1778.

GROVER, PHINEAS, (poss. Glast.), Sgt. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 3 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston; ens. in 1st (Gl.) Co., Capt. Swift's batt. at Fort Ticonderaga, 1776; comm. 2nd Lieut. 7th Reg. Conn. Line, Col. Herman Swift, 1 Jan., 1777; prom. 1st Lieut. 25 Jan., 1778; prom. Capt.-Lieut. 11 Oct., 1780; resigned 1781; was in assault on Stony Point, 15 July, 1779; was in 2nd Batt. detached from the 7th Reg. with the Light Co. R. & F. for service under Col. Return Jonathan Meig's Lt. inf.

GROVER, WILLIAM, (S.) Chester's Co.?

HALE, BENEZER, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig. at Peekskill, N. Y. Mch.-June, 1777.

HALE, ELIZUR, JR., app. Capt. 6th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm List, Oct., 1778.

HALE, MATHEW, in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co. 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.

HALE, NATHANIEL, a 6 mo's. recruit, 18 Aug.-14 Dec., 1779 in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*

HALE, THEODORE, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug. 1776.

HAND, JONATHAN, enl. Capt. Wylly's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 21 Feb. 1777, for war.

HAND, JOSEPH, enl. Capt. Bull's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's add. Reg. 22 April, 1777, for the war; disch. 5 June, 1780—paid to 1780.

- HANMER, JAMES, on bd. slp. Anne, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- HANMER, JOHN, app. May, 1776, 1st Lieut., 2d Co., Sixth Mil. Reg. "for defense of this and adjoining colonies;" Capt. of a Mil. Co. on bd. slp. Anne, bd. for N. Y. Aug. 1776; Capt. 2nd Co. Sixth Mil. Reg. May, 1780
- HANMER, SAMUEL, in Capt., Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. Anne, bd. for N. Y., Aug. 1776.
- HANMER, THOMAS, Sgt. in Capt. Hanmer's Co., as above.
- HARRISON, THEODORE, a 6 mo's. recruit, 15 July—9 Dec., 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- HATCH, JAMES, in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co. 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- HATCH, MOSES, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug. 1778.
- HENDERSON, ———, 4th Troop, Col. Shelden's Lt. (2nd Conn.) Drag.; enl. 7 May, 1777, described as a farmer, 5 ft. 10 in. height, dark complexion, hair and eyes, disch. for Jno. Judd.
- HILL, ELIPHALET, a 6 mo's. recruit, 16 Aug.-14 Dec., 1779 in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- HILLS, ASA, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- HILLS, ASAHIEL, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 1 May, disch. 10 Dec. 1775, before Boston.
- HINKLEY, THOMAS, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co. 2nd Conn. Reg. Col. Spencer, 9 May, disch. 17 Dec. 1775, before Boston.
- HOGAN, JAMES, in Col. Canfield's Mil. Reg., West Point, Sept. 1782.
- HOLLISTER, AARON, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co. 2nd Conn. Reg. Col. Spencer, 6 May, disch. 7 Dec. 1775, before Boston.
- HOLLISTER, ASAHIEL, in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- HOLLISTER, ELIJAH, enl. Capt. Chester's 9th Co. 2nd Conn. Reg. Col. Spencer, 8 May, disch. 17 Dec. 1775, before Boston.
- HOLLISTER, ELIZUR, app. Lieut. Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm List, Oct. 1780.
- HOLLISTER, EVETT, in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co. 3rd Batt. West Point, June, 1778.
- HOLMES, LEMUEL, in Col. Canfield's Mil. Reg. West Point, Sept. 1782.
- HOLMES, DANIEL, a 6 mo's. recruit, 23 July-9 Dec., 1779, in Col. Webb's Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- HOLMES, SIMEON, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug. 1778.
- HOLMES, THOMAS, (S.) enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co. 2nd Conn. Reg. Col. Spencer, 15 May, disch. 10 (or 17) Dec. 1775, before Boston; prob. the same who enl. 1 Mch. 1777 for the war, in Capt. Whiting's Co. Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., and cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778; was a Sgt.
- HOSFORD, AARON, app. Capt. 4th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm List, May, 1778.
- HOSKINS, THOMAS, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 9 May; *deserted* 1 Aug. 1775, before Boston.
- HUBBARD, AARON
- HUBBARD, ABEL, drummer in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776.
- HUBBARD, ELIZUR, in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- HUBBARD, ZENAS, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co. Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776.
- HUNN, ENOS, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776.

- HURLBURT, ELI, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 15 May, disch. 17 Oct. 1775, before Boston.
- HURLBURT, JOHN, app. 1st Lieut. 2nd Co. Capt. Chester's Batt. Vols.
- HURLBUT, ROBERT, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co. Col. Belden's Co., Wolcott's Brig. Peekskill, N. Y. Mch.-June, 1777.
- HURLBURT, SILAS, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co. 2nd Conn. Reg. Col. Spencer, 11 May, disch. 16 Oct. 1775, before Boston; was in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg. Wolcott's Brig. Peekskill, N. Y. 22 April-10 May, 1777, and in 3rd Co. (Capt. E. Wright's) 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- HURLBUT, STEPHEN, in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co. 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- HULBUT, TIMOTHY, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug. 1776.
- JACKSON, JOHN, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 May, died 28 Sept., 1775.
- JOHNSON, JOSEPH, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug. 1778.
- JOHNSON, , in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co. Col. Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776—deserted.
- KELLOGG, MARTIN, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; Lieut. 6th Reg., Mil. Co., 1777; Capt. Official Vols., Htfd.
- KELLOGG, PHINEAS, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- KELLOGG, STEPHEN, in Capt. Hez. Welles' Co., Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776; enl. Capt. Wooster's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 22 April, 1777, for the war; cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778; disch. at close of war 5 Jan., 1783.
- KELSEY, MOSES, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- KELSEY, WILLIAM, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- KELSEY, JOHN, Sgt. in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776.
- KELSEY, IRA, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776.
- KILBY, CHRISTOPHER ALLEN, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 9 May; disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776, as corp.
- KILBOURN, LEVI, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 15 May, disch. 21 Nov. 1775, before Boston.
- KILBOURN, SETH, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 15 May; disch. 21 Nov., 1775, before Boston; in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig. at Peekskill, Mch.-June, 1777.
- KILBOURN, TIMOTHY, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776.
- KING, DAVID, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775, and enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co. 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 11 May; disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston. See Catlin's letter, p.
- KIRKHAM, (*Kircum*, *Kircom*) JOHN, enl. Capt. Walker's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 21 July, 1778, for 3 yrs.; cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778; fife-major, 14 Nov., 1781.
- KIRKHAM, JOHN, drummer in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.
- KIRKHAM, SAMUEL, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug. 1778.



- KIRKHAM, WILLIAM, enl. 4th Troop, Col. Sheldon's Lt. (2d Conn.) Drag. 2 April, 1777; described as a weaver, 5 ft. 8 in height, dark complexion and hair, blue eyes.
- KNOWLES, JAMES, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; as ens. from Capt. Chester's (9th) Co. 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer (in which he enl. 10 May, and was disch. 10 Sept., 1775); he served under Capt. Hanchett in the Quebec Exped., Dec., 1775, and was taken pris. at Q.; later in the war was reported to be in the privateer service.
- LAGO, WILLETT, of Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. the Slp. *Anne*, bd. to N. Y., Aug. 1776.
- LAMPHEER, ———, enl. in Capt. Sheldon's Lt. (2nd Conn.) Drag. 15 Feb. 1777; described as a saddler, 5 ft. 8 in. height, fair complexion, light hair, blue eyes.
- LATIMORE LEVI, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch. 1776; enl. Sheldon's Lt. (2d Conn.) Drag.; recruit; prob. the same Levi cr. to Cont. Army, Aug. 1778.
- A Levi Lattimer is adv. in *Conn. Courant*, 31 Jan., 1777, in company with one John Goodrich, as a deserter, described as about 5 ft. 5 in. high, sandy complexion and has impediment in speech.
- LEACH, WILLIAM, served in Col. S. B. Webb's add. Reg. wd. at battle of Rhode Island, Aug. 1778.
- LENNOX, JOHN R., in Col. Canfield's Mil. Reg. at West Point, Sept. 1782.
- LINDSEY, DAVID, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- LOCKWOOD, JAMES, (Mil. Sec'y and Brig.-Major) son of Rev. James of Weth.; mcht. at New Haven; on the Lex. Alarm; seems to have gone, in some capacity to the camp at Boston; later was app. Mil. Sec'y. to Gen. Wooster, whom he accompanied to Canada, with Gen. Montgomery, who app. him Brig.-Major in the Northern Army; was present at the capture of St. Johns, also of Montreal and Quebec, April-May, 1776; was app. Sept. 24, 1777, recruiting officer of 1st Conn. Mil. Brig.; after the war engaged in trade in Philadelphia, and d. in Wilmington, N. C., 24 Aug., 1795. See *Yale in the Revolution*, p. 19.
- LOCKWOOD, (Rev.) WILLIAM, was Brig. Chaplain in the re-formation of the Conn. Line, 1781-83; continued as chaplain in Gen. Nixon's Brig. in the Mass. Line, Oct. 12, 1780, to the end of the war, June, 1783; was an orig. mem. of the Society of the Cincinnati, from Mass.; d. 23 June, 1828.
- LOOMIS, DICK, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- LOVELAND, ASA, (poss. Glast.) enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 May, died 24 Oct., 1775, at Boston.—p. 104, *Hist. Glast.*
- LOVELAND, DANIEL.
- LOVELAND, LEVI, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777; in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co. 3rd Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.
- LUSK, LEVI, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- LUSK, JAMES, app. Ens. 13th Co., 15 Reg., Oct., 1775; app. Capt. of same Co., May, 1779; Capt. of Mil. Co., New Haven Alarm, Col. Stanley's Reg., 1779; served with his Co. (as from Far.) 12 day, in Col. Hutchins' N. Y. Reg., at West Point, 1780.—*Col. Rec. Conn.* XV; *Conn. State Rec.* II, 298; *Conn. Rev. Rec.*
- MACKEY, HEZEKIAH, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 12 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.

- MARKS, ABISHAI, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 11 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775; may be the same who, as ABIJAH, was in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- MARSH, DANIEL, was one of 22 men capt. by the British from the brig. *Gen. Greene*, privateer, 1782, and d. in N. Y. prisoner.—*Step. Ch. Rec.*
- MAY, HEZEKIAH, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- MAY, JOHN, (*fifer*), in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. to N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- MAY, WILLIAM, Sgt. in same Co. as John above.
- McCLEAN, (poss. Gl.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 May, disch. 7 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- McDOWELL, ALVIN, Corp., enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 3 May, disch. 10 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- McNALLY, HENRY, in Col. Canfield's Mil. Reg., at West Point, 1782.
- MELDRUM, WILLIAM, was one of 22 capt. by the British from the privateer brigantine *Gen. Greene* (from Weth.) 1782, and d. in N. Y. prison.
- MILLER, CALEB, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- MILLER, JOHN, (S.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 5 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- MILLER, JONATHAN, enl. Capt. Wooster's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 1 June, 1777, for the war, disch. 3 Dec., 1782.
- MILLER, JOSEPH, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 15 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston [also on record, a Joseph Millar, who enl. same Co. and Reg., on 6 May, but disch. on same day as the above—prob. same person].
- MILLS, JEDIDIAH, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- MINEK, JNO., enl. in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 May, disch. 9 Nov., 1775, before Boston.
- MITCHELL, DAVID, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.
- MOHAWK, PETER, (Indian), cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- MONTAGUE, ABRAM, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.
- MONTAGUE, RICHARD, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., Apl., 22-May 10, 1777.
- MONTAGUE, SETH, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. in Capt. Wooster's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 30 May, 1777, for the war; prom. Capt., 1 June, 1778; disch. 7 Mch., 1780.
- MORGAN, THOMAS, enl. Capt. Wyllys' Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 31 May, 1777, for the war; deserted 3 Mch., 1779; rejoined 25 Feb., 1780; deserted 21 Jan., 1781.
- MORRISON, WILLIAM, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- MOSELY, JOSEPH, (poss. Gl.), Capt. 1st Co., 2d Batt., Col. Gay. Wadsworth's Reg., 1776.
- MORTON, BENJAMIN, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- MURPHY, JAMES, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 3 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston; in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777; poss. the same J. M., who enl. 6th Troop, Col. Sheldon's Lt. Drag., 11

Apl., 1777, described as a farmer, 5 ft. 5 in. in height, dark complex., light eyes; or poss. the J. M., who was in service as a matross in Col. Crane's Artillery, from 1777-78; in service in 1781.

MYGATT, JOHN, enl. Capt. Bull's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., for the war, 1777; Corp., 1 June, 1781; ment., Sept., 1776, by Moses Andrus, at Ft. Independence, as being near him in that place.—(W. F. J. Boardman.)

MYGATT, ZEBULON, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777; enl. Capt. Bull's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 2 July, 1777, for the war; Corp., 1 June, 1781.

NEAL, THOMAS, enl. 2d Troop, Col. Sheldon's Lt. Drag., 25 Mch., 1777.

NEWSON, ISAAC, Capt., of the privateer *Lark*.

NICHOLS, BENJAMIN, Capt. 15th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., May, 1778.

NICHOLSON, FRANCIS, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.

NICHOLSON, NATHAN, service record same as Francis.

NORTH, DAVID, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Mch.-June, 1777.

NORTH, ISAAC, 2d Lieut. Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., 22 Apl.-10 May, 1777.

NORTH, SELAH, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; Sgt. in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.

NOTT, CHARLES, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

NOTT, HEZEKIAH, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.

PADDY, SETH, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 11 May, disch. 10 Dec., 1775, before Boston.

PATERSON, JOHN, (Major-General), a native of Newington parish, b. 1744; grad. of Y. C., 1762; became a lawyer; removed to Lenox, Mass., in 1774; threw himself ardently into the patriot cause; he was a member of the Berkshire Convention which sat at Stockbridge that year and he sat as representative from Lenox in the First and Second Provincial Congresses. He organized the Stockbridge Indians for military service and raised a regiment, of which he became Colonel. It marched the third day after the battle of Lexington with almost incredible promptness, and from that time until 1783, with the exception of brief furloughs, Paterson remained in active service. He held Fort No. 3, Prospect Hill, Charleston Heights, during the battle of Bunker Hill; he fought at Princeton; shared in the unjust criticism for the abandonment of Ticonderoga, which was forgotten in the triumph of Burgoyne's surrender, to which he contributed by his great services at Bemis Heights. He was made Brig.-Gen in 1777, endured the hardships of Valley Forge in 1777-78, and took an important part in the battle of Monmouth, the last serious contest fought in the North. Gen. Patterson served on the Hudson and at West Point. At the close of the war he was one of the small group of major generals, the youngest officer of that rank excepting LaFayette, and he held the highest place of any son of Berkshire. He resumed his residence in Lenox, and again took up his sword to crush "Shay's Rebellion." In 1790, he shared in the "Boston Purchase" in Broome and Tioga counties, N. Y., and in 1791, removed his residence to Tioga. In 1792-93, he represented it in the State Legislature; he was made Chief Justice in 1798, and sat in Congress in 1803 and 1805. His sword was readily turned into the ploughshare, and his bravery in war became wise counsel in peace. His name deserves to be remembered among the founders of the Republic. His gt-gd-

son, Dr. Thomas Eggleston, published, in 1899, a valuable biography of him, entitled *John Paterson, Major-General*, from the press of G. P. Putnam's Sons. A monument to General Paterson, called the Eggleston-Paterson Memorial Monument, occupies a fine site at Lenox, Mass.

PALMER, ISAAC, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.

PECK, ARIEL, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.

PHELPS, ELIHU, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 10 May, disch. 10 Dec., 1775.

PIERCE, SAMUEL, in Capt. Hanmor's Mil. Co., on bd. *Slp. Anne*, bd. to N. Y., Aug., 1776.

PITKIN, JOHN, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.

PITKIN, NATHANIEL, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.

POMEROY, OLIVER, (S.), Lieut. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; Lieut. 6th Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.

PORTER, AARON.

PORTER, ABIJAH, fifer in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; also in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., at Peekskill, N. Y., Apl. 22-10 May, 1777.

POWELL, BENONI, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 11 May, died 4 Nov., 1775, before Boston.

PRICE, JOHN, capt. with 21 others by the Br. from the brigantine *Gen. Greene*, of Weth., 1782; d. after release from prison in N. Y., on way home, at Saybrook, Ct.—*Step. Ch. Rec.*

RAINEY, WILLIAM, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, Mch.-June, 1777.

RASH, JACOB, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's Co. (9th), 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 15 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.

RASH, JEREMIAH, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.

RAYMOND, OLIVER, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 5 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.

REYNOLDS, JOHN, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., at Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.

RHODES, ALEXANDER, in Capt. Hanmer's Co., on bd. *slp. Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.

RHODES, JOSEPH, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

RHODES, WILLIAM, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.

RICHARDS, ELI and SIMEON, both in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. the *slp. Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.

RILEY, ACKLEY, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

RILEY, ASHBEL, (S.), cr. to Cont. Army, 1776; commander of privateer *Ranger*, 1776, and of privateer *Snake*, 1778.

RILEY, JACOB, app. Lieut. 4th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm List, May, 1781.

RILEY, JOHN, 2d Lieut. Burrall's State Reg., 19 Jan., 1776; 1st Lieut. to Jan., 1776; 2d Lieut., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 1 Jan., 1777; prom. 1st Lieut., 1 Feb., 1777; prom. Capt., 10 July, 1779; pris. on L. I., Exp., 10 Dec., 1777; exch. 3 Dec., 1780; transf. to 3d Conn. Reg., formation of 1781-83, 1 Jan., 1781; retired by consolidation, 1 Jan., 1783.



RILEY, JUSTUS, of Slp. *Hero*, 1778.

RILEY, REUBEN.

RILEY, SIMON, ment. as Conductor of teams, in a letter from John Webb, dated at Kent, Nov., 1777; also says "price of Rum rising every day."

RIPNER, ROGER, (S.) Capt. in Co., Chester's (Reg.?), 1776.—*R. W. G.*

RIPNER, WILLIAM, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.

ROBBINS, FREDERICK, (S.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 12 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston; was in battle of Bunker Hill; later part owner of a privateer in which sailing, he was capt. by British and endured much suffering in prison ship until exch.

ROBBINS, JOHN, (S.).—*R. W. G.*

ROBBINS, JOSIAH, (prob. S.), app. May, 1776, 2d Lieut., 2d Co., 3d Reg. Vols.; enl. May, 30, 1777, Capt. Hart's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., for the war; transf. to Sapper's and Miner's, 1 Mch., 1781, prob. present at Siege of Yorktown, Sept. and Oct., 1781: in 1783, appears as applicant for pension, from Boston.

ROBBINS, LEVI, app. Qr.-Mr., 1st Troop, 1st Reg., Light Drag.

ROBBINS, OLIVER, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; six days in Capt. Chester's Co.

ROBBINS, RICHARD, 6 mos. recruit, 23 July-12 Dec., 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*

ROBBINS, SAMUEL, 6 mos. recruit, 18 Aug.-20 Dec., 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.

ROBBINS, WILLIAM, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; commanded Slp. *Betsy*, 1776.—See p.

ROCKWELL, SAMUEL, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.

ROSE, SAMUEL, enl. 1 Sept., 1777, in 2d Troop, Col. Sheldon's Light Drag., for the war; described as a seaman, 5 ft. 8½ in. in height, light complex., eyes and hair; disch. May, 1778.

ROWLAND (Rowlandson ?), JOSEPH, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 10 May, disch. 24 Oct., 1775, before Boston.

ROWLAND, WILLIAM, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 11 May, *died in prison*, at Boston, 1775.

ROWLANDSON, JOSEPH, enl. Capt. Bull's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 8 June, 1777, for war; *deserted* 18 Feb., 1779; rejoined July, 1779. May be the same as Joseph Rowland, above.

ROWLANDSON (?), WILSON, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. Slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.

RUSSELL, ASHER, (S.), enl. Capt. Bull's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 25 June, 1777, for the war; *cr. to Cont. Army*, Aug., 1778; *deserted*, 18 Feb., 1779.

RUSSELL, JOHN, drummer, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 6 May, disch. 1 Sept., 1775, before Boston.

RUSSELL, NATHANIEL, (S.), (son of Rev. Daniel), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

RUSSELL, THOMAS, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co.

SABINS, STEPHEN, enl. in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 May, *died* 30 June, 1775.

SANBORN, NATHANIEL, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

SANFORD, EBEN, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

SANFORD, JESSE, in Capt. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.

- SAVAGE, LUTHER, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.
- SCOTT, MOSES, (poss. Glast.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 May, disch. 1 Dec., 1775.
- SCOVEL, JAMES, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- SCRIPTURE, JOHN, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- SEYMOUR, ASHBEL, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; Sgt. enl. in Capt. Chester's (9th) 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 19 May, disch. 17 Oct., 1775, before Boston; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- SHEPARD, NATHANIEL, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- SHIPMAN, REUBEN, (S.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 6 May, disch. 10 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- SIZER, DANIEL, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- SIZER, JABEZ, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- SMITH, GERSHOM, (S.), in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 10 May, *killed* 17 June, 1775, at Bunker Hill.
- SMITH, ISAAC, (poss. Gl.), app. Ens. Oct., 1779, to 6th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm List.
- SMITH, JOHN, (poss. Gl.), in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.
- SMITH, SAMUEL, (poss. Glast.), app. Lieut., May, 1779, in "one of the regiments to be raised."
- SPAULDING, JOSEPH, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg., State Troops, before Boston, Jan.-May, 1776.
- STANDISH, JAMES, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. Slp. *Anne*, bd. to N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- STANLEY, GEORGE, Lieut. in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. to N. Y., Aug., 1776; Lieut., May, 1780, in 2d Co., Sixth Mil. Reg.
- STANLEY, JAMES, (S.).
- STANLEY, THOMAS, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778; enl. 21 July, 1778, in Capt. Walker's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., for the war; Corp., 1 June, 1781.
- STEEL, JOSEPH, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.
- STEVENS, ———, Sgt., taken prisoner, with Col. Welles, near Horseneck, Dec., 10, 1780.
- STEVENS, EPAPHRAS, (poss. Gl.), enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 10 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- STEVENS, THOMAS, (poss. Gl.), 1st Lieut. in Col. Enos' State Reg., June, 1777.
- STILLMAN, ALLYN, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776; in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.
- STILLMAN, ALLYN, (Capt.), commanded State Naval transport.—See Chapter XII.
- STILLMAN, DAVID, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778; a 6 mos. recruit, 1 Oct.-9 Dec., 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- STILLMAN, JOSEPH, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

- STILLMAN, JOSEPH (Dr.), poss. same as above, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. Slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- STILLMAN, NATHANIEL, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776. There was a Capt. Nath'l Stillman, of Weth., who commanded one of the two companies of Washington's Life (or body) Guard.
- STILLMAN, SAMUEL, Capt. of brig *Jason*, 1780. Pensioner, Htfd. Co., 1832.
- STOCKING, HEZEKIAH, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 4 May, disch. 10 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- STODDARD, DAVID, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. in Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 15 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston.
- STODDARD, EBENEZER, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- STODDARD, ELL, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- STODDARD, ENOCH, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, 12 May, disch. 18 Oct., 1775.
- STODDARD, EPAPHRAS, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- STODDARD, JONATHAN, Ens. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; Ens. of Capt. Norton's (3d) Co., Col. Mott's Batt. (one of two batt. raised to reinforce the Cont. Troops in the Northern Dep't at Ticonderoga and vicinity, and which served under Gen. Gates and were retired Nov., 1776). This 3d Co. was enlisted from Midd., Farmington and Weth.; prob. the same Jonathan, who, Oct., 1780, was Capt. of 5th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm List.
- STODDARD, SOLOMON, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., Jan.-Mch., 1776, before Boston.
- SULLIVAN, LAWRENCE, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn., Reg., Col. Spencer 13 May, disch. 10 Dec., 1775; prisoner in same year prob. in the Quebec Exp.
- TALMADGE, BENJAMIN, (Maj.) This brilliant and well known officer, though a native of Long Island, seems to have been studying at Weth. when the war broke out (probably preparing for Y. C. under the tuition of Rev. Dr. Marsh) and was among the earliest to enl. under Capt. Chester (and was credited on the enl. rolls, to Weth.) with whom he was in the Boston Campaign of 1775; tho' he did not fully decide to enter the service until the following year when he rec'd an appt. as 2nd Lieut. in 3rd Co. of Chester's Batt., Wadsworth's Brig., was app. Adj. thereof 20 June, 1776; and by his promptness, and merit became Senior Capt. in the same Regt., comm. dated 14 Dec., '76; promoted Maj., 7 Apl., 1776, and Brig.-Maj., 11 Oct., same year. Dec. 14 was app. Maj. in Col. Sheldon's (2nd Cont., Light Dragoons; returned to Weth. and enl. a number of volunteers, whom he equipped handsomely at his own expense and in Spring of '77 joined Washington in N. J.; conducted the secret service for the Commander-in-Chief; was Capt. at Fort George, L. I., 21 Nov., 1780, for gallantry in which action he rec'd the following vote of thanks from the Cont. Congress.

By the act of 6 Dec. 1780, it was "Resolved while Congress are sensible of the patriotism, courage and perseverance of the officers and privates of their Reg. forces, as well as of the militia throughout the U. S., and of the military conduct of the principal Commanders in both, it gives them pleasure to be so frequently called upon to confer marks of distinction and applause for enterprise, which do in this light they view the enterprise against Fort St. George on L. I. planned and honor to the profession of arms, and claim a high rank of military achievements;

conducted with wisdom and great gallantry, by Maj. Tallmadge, of the Light Dragoons and executed with intrepidity and complete success by the officers and soldiers of the detachment. Ordered therefore, that Maj. Tallmadge's rep't. to the Com.-in-Chief be published with the preceding minutes, as a tribute to distinguished merit, and in testimony of the sense Congress entertains of this brilliant service." Served at Gen. Washington's Headquarters, Mch., 1781 to Nov., 1783; Brevet-Lieut. Col., 30 Sept. 1783 (died 17 Mch. 1835.)

TALCOTT, EBEN, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.

TALCOTT, ELIZUR, (poss. Gl.) in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.

TALCOTT, MOSES, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug. 1776.

TAYLOR, ASABEL, in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.

TAYLOR, ASHBEL, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 9 May, disch. 17 Dec. 1775, before Boston.

TAYLOR, JOSEPH, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.

TAYLOR, REUBEN, service record same as Joseph's.

THRASHER, SAMUEL, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg. Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.

TIMON, (negro) in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

TINKER, JEHIEL, navigator Capt., 1777.

TOSSET, CHARLES, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig., Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.

TREAT, CHARLES, Sgt., 6 days service in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2d Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 12 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston; was at battle of Bunker Hill; cr. to Cont. Army, 1778; prob. the same C. T. who enl. 23 Aug. in Capt. Wilcox's Co., Col. Baldwin's Reg. of Artificiers, for the war; prom. Sgt. 1 Aug., 1778; enl. June 1776, under Capt. Chester Welles in Col. John Chester's Reg. for 7 mo.; was in battles of Long Island, Kingsbridge, Valentine Hill, and White Plains and in the retreat through N. J. to the Del. River—to Dec. 1776, when he was disch.; enl. a 3d time Aug. 23, 1777, with Capt. James Wilcox, Col. Jeduthan Baldwin; prom. Sgt. 1 Aug., 1778; trans. to Co. of Capt. Thomas' Artillery Artificiers under Gen. Knox, till prom. June 1779 to conductor of Mil. stores with rank of Capt.; disch. 9 Nov., 1782.

TREAT, JOSEPH CANNING, (s. John) enl. for war, 6 Mch., 1777 under Capt. Bulkely in 3d Conn. Reg., Col. S. B. Webb, disch. June 8, 1783, signed by Gen. Washington. Was in bat. of R. I., Aug. '79; at burning of Springfield, N. J., 23 June, 1780, and later with main army on the Hudson; pensioner—appears on pen. list as John Treat—the name Canning having been dropped. Was one of the Mil. Co. on bd. the slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug. 1776.

TRYON, AARON, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.

TRYON, GEORGE, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.

TRYON, JOSEPH, cr. to Cont. Army, 1778.

TRYON, JOSIAH, a 6 mos. recruit, 18 Aug.-4 Dec. 1779, in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*



- TRYON, MOSES, U. S. N., Capt. of armed brig *Jason*, 1781.—*Tryon Geal.* Vol. II.
- TRYON, WILLIAM, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 9 May; Corp. until 20 Oct.; Sgt. until 10 Dec., 1775, when the Co. was mustered out, before Boston.
- TURNER, JOHN, enl. Capt. Alden's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 28 Apl. 1777, for the war; *deserted* 2 Aug., 1779.
- WAPLES, ELI, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- WARD, DANIEL, (poss. Gl.) enl. Capt. Whiting's Co., 4 Feb., 1777, for the war; cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778; corp. 1 May, 1781, in Col. Webb's Add. Reg.
- WARE, (WEARE) ELIAS, enl. Capt. Col. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 8 May, disch. 17 Dec. 1775; cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- WARE, WILLIAM, service record same as Elias'—disch. 17 Dec., 1775; cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- WARNER, ROBERT, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- WARNER, DANIEL, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- WARNER, WILLIAM, (S.), Sgt. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; app. Feb., 1778, Lieut. in 1st Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm List; app. Aug., 1777, Ens. in 6th Co., same Reg.
- WATERS, JOSEPH, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778; enl. 1st Troop, Col. Sheldon's Lt.-Drag. 16 Mch., 1780; described as shoemaker, 5 ft. 5 in. in height, fair complex., light hair and eyes.
- WEAVER, SAMUEL, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- WEBB, SAMUEL, BLATCHLEY, (Brig.-Gen.)
- WEBB, JOHN, (Capt.) app. Lieut. Sheldon's 2d Reg. Lt. Drag. 10 Jan., 1777; app. Capt. 1 Jan., 1778; app. Aide-de-Camp to Maj.-Gen. Robert Howe, in re-org. of Conn. Line, 1777-1781; was on the gen. staff in formation of Conn. Line, 1781-83, and served to end of war; orig. memb. Society of the Cincinnati.
- WEBB, SAMUEL BLATCHLEY, (Brig.-Gen.), while acting as private secretary to Silas Deane, the news of the Battle of Lexington, reached Wethersfield, and the young man was quickly on the scene of action; was commissioned 1st Lieut. in Col. Chester's Reg., 1 May, 1775; was wounded at the battle of Bunker Hill, and commended in Gen. Orders for gallantry; wrote an account of the battle to Silas Deane (which is now in the Library of the Conn. Hist. Soc.); was made aide-de-camp to Gen. Putnam, 22 July, 1775, accompanied that general to New York City, where he was app., 21 June, 1776, in Gen. Orders, aide-de-camp to Gen. Washington, to whom also he acted as private secretary, with rank of Lt.-Col., which position he held until the close of that year, and was the writer of the order promulgating to the army, the Declaration of Independence, 4 July, 1776. A few days later according to the account given in his private Journal,<sup>1</sup> he joined Col. Reed in refusing to receive from the commander of the British Fleet, in N. Y. Harbor, a letter sent under a flag of truce, and discourteously addressed to George Washington, *Esq.* Webb's *Journal* says: "New York, July 14, 1776. A flag of truce from the Fleet appeared, on which Col. Reed and myself went down to meet it. About half way between Governor's and Staten Island, Lieut. Brown of the *Eagle*, offered a Letter from Lord

<sup>1</sup> This Journal, covering the period betw. 21 June, and 1 Aug., 1776, is in the possession of the Webb family, to whom it was returned by Hon. Wm. B. Reed, who found it among his father's papers.

Howe, directed—GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq.; which, on account of its direction, we refused to receive, and parted with the usual compliments.

New York, 17 July, 1776.

A flag from the enemy, with an answer from General Howe about the [letter] sent yesterday, directed George Washington, Esq., &c.—which was refused.

New York, 19 July, 1776.

A flag appeared this morning, when Col. Reed and myself went down an Aid-de-Camp of Gen.<sup>l</sup> Howe met us, and said, as there appeared an unsurmountable obstacle between the two Generals, by way of compounding, Gen.<sup>l</sup> Howe desired his Adjutant General might be admitted to an interview with his Excellency, General Washington; on which, Col. Reed, in the name of General Washington, consented, and pledged his honor for his being safely returned. The Aide-de-Camp said the Adjutant General would meet us tomorrow forenoon.

20th July.

At 12 o'clock we met the Flag—took Lt. Colonel Paterson of the Regiment into our Barge and escorted him safe to town to Col. Knox's Quarters where His Excellency, General Washington, attended by his suit and Life Guard, received and had an interview of about an hour with him. We then escorted him back in safety to his own Barge. In going and coming we passed in front of the Guard Battery, but did not blindfold him—social and chatty all the way."

Webb was taken prisoner, with his command, on an expedition to L. I., 10 Dec., 1780; was exchanged and devoted his time, private funds and efforts to the raising and organizing of a regiment (one of the sixteen so-called "Additional regiments," authorized by Congress) which became the 3d Conn. Reg. of the Line, in the formation of 1781-3, and of which he was app. Col. During 1782, he was on detail duty with Light Infantry; was continued in the 3d Conn. Reg., in the formation of Jan.-June, 1783; was retired with the Army at the close of hostilities, June, 1783; brevetted as Brig.-Gen. under Gen. Act of Congress, 30 Sept., 1783, and served until 13 Nov., 1783; was one of original members of Society of Cincinnati.

WEBSTER, AMOS ANDREW, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

WEBSTER, LEON, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.

WEBSTER, DAVID, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig. Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.

WELLES, ASA, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg. before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. to N. Y., Aug., 1776.

WELLES, CHESTER, (Capt.) later Major. 2d Lieut. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; app. 26 May, 1776; Capt. 2d Co., Sixth Mil. Reg.; app. June, 1776, Capt. of 3d Co., Chester's Batt. of Vols.; app. Ens. in Col. Noadiah Hooker's Batt. at Peekskill, N. Y., Mch. 1777; Capt. of 4th Co. in Col. Belden's Co., Wolcott's Brig. Peekskill, N. Y., Apl. 22—10 May, 1777; Maj. Sixth Mil. Reg. ( *vice* John Belden, prom.) Jan., 1780.

WELLES, ELIJAH, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. to N. Y., Aug., 1776; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.

WELLES, ELISHA, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.

WELLES, ELISHA, 2d.

- WELLES, GIDEON, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- WELLES, HEZEKIAH, Capt. of 4th Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg. State Troops, before Boston Jan.-Mch., 1776; app. Capt. of a Co. for service at Peekskill, N. Y., in Col. Noadiah Hooker's Batt.; Capt. 4th Co., 19th Mil. Reg., Alarm List, 1779.
- WELLES, JAMES, Sgt. in Col. Sheldon's Lt. (2nd Conn.) Drag., 7 May, 1777; app. Corp. 1 Jan., 1778; Lieut. 2d June, 1779, and served to end of war.
- WELLES, JOSHUA, in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Col. Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; (poss. the same who was in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig. at Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777) cr. to Cont. Army, Aug. 1778; in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3d Batt. at Peekskill, N. Y., June, 1778.
- WELLES, JOSIAH, same service record as Joshua above (there was a Josiah Welles—poss. the same, who was in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 12 May, disch. 10 Dec., 1775; in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. Slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- WELLES, JOSEPH, Corp. of Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- WELLES, ROBERT, app. Capt., May, 1778, in 5th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg.
- WELLES, ROBERT, JR., app. Lieut. May, 1778, in 5th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg.
- WELLES, ROGER, 2nd Lieut., 1 Jan., 1777, in Capt. Bull's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., and during the summer and fall of that year served under Gen. Putnam on the Hudson; was prom. 16 May, 1778, 1st Lieut., serving mostly in the Reg. commanded by his classmate, Col. Ebenezer Huntington, was doubtless in the battle of Long Island, was at one time in Capt. Walker's and again in Capt. Wooster's Co.; during the severe winter of 1779-80, within camp at Morristown, N. J., his Reg. being in Stark's Brig. which, in June following, took part in the action near Springfield, N. J. under Gen. Greene. When Lafayette's Light Inf. Corps was org. he was app. April 8, 1780 to the captaincy of one of the five companies, which formed a part of Capt. Gimat's battalion, accompanying Gen. Lafayette to Virginia. For his gallant conduct at Yorktown, S. C., and subsequent military services, see pp. 482-6, Vol. I; was in the action at Green Spring near Jamestown, Va., July 6, 1781; was retained in Swift's Conn. Reg., June, 1783 and served to end of the war, Nov., 1783.
- WELLES, SETH, in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. Slp. *Anne*, bd. to N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- WELLES, SIMON, enl. 1st Troop, Sheldon's Lt. (2nd Conn.) Drag. 27 Dec., 1776; described as a joiner, 5 ft. 6 in. in height, fair complex., light eyes and hair; deserted, and returned 11 Sept., 1780.
- WELLES, THOMAS, Sgt. in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- WELLES, WILLIAM, ("Billee" on the roster) in Capt. Hanmor's Mil. Co., on bd. Slp. *Anne*, bd. to N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- WENTWORTH, ZION, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 15 May, disch. Dec. 7, 1775; was in the unfortunate Quebec Expd. from which he returned safely; prob. the same L. W. who was in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776—from which he was detailed to the above expd., and who was also in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3d Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.

- WESTON, BENJAMIN, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hanmer's Mil. Co., on bd. Slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776; Sgt. in Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 10 Mch., 1777; Ens. 16 May, 1778; resigned 13 July, 1779.
- WESTER, (poss. Weston) ———, in Col. Canfield's Mil. Reg. at West Point, Sept. 1782.
- WESTEN, BENJAMIN, (Ens.) disch. and deserted before Jan. 1, 1780 and not included in settlement for *depreciation* of pay.—*Conn. Mag.*
- WETHERBY, (WETHERLY) David, a 6 mos. recruit, 18 July-4 Dec., 1779; in Col. Webb's (9th) Reg.—*Conn. Mag.*
- WETHERELL, ELISHA, in Capt. E. Wright's (3d) Co., 3d Batt., at West Point, June, 1778.
- WETHERHEAD, EDWARD, cr. to Cont. Army, 1778.
- WETMORE, JOHN,
- WHEELER, JOSEPH, in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- WHITE, JAMES, one of 22 cap. by Br. from the brigantine *Gen. Greene* privateer from Weth., 1782; d. in prison at N. Y.
- WHITE, TIMOTHY, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- WHITTLESEY, LEMUEL, app. Lieut. 5th Co., Sixth Mil. Reg.
- WHITMAN, SAMUEL, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- WILLARD, SIMON, in Capt. Hanmor's Mil. Co., on bd. Slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- WILLIAMS, DANIEL, enl. Capt. Hart's Co., Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg., 15 Feb., 1777, for 3 yrs.; disch. 1 Apl., 1781; was Sgt.
- WILLIAMS, ELIAS, (S.) was at Bunker Hill. (*R. W. G.*)
- WILLIAMS, EZEKIEL, Commissary for care of prisoners, is mentioned (*Mem. Hist. Htfd. Co.*), as among those to whom military commis. were issued by the Gen. Assembly, for services in the Revolution."
- WILLIAMS, ISRAEL (S.) in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- WILLIAMS, JOSEPH, Ens. in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belcher's Reg., Peekskill, N. Y., April 22—10 May, 1777.
- WILLIAMS, OTHNIEL, Capt. 1st Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm List, May, 1779; Ens. in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- WILLIAMS, SAMUEL, WILLIAM, (N.), (gd-son of Rev. and Col. Elisha Williams, 1st Rector at Y. C.) b. at Weth., 1752; grad. Y. C., 1773; was 2d Lieut. 6th Conn. Mil. Reg., May 1-Dec 18, 1775; at org. of the Conn. line joined Col. S. B. Webb's Add. Reg. as Lieut., 1 Jan., 1777; prom. Capt., 21 Mch., 1778; the Reg. served on the Hudson in 1777, and the summer of 1778; marched to Rhode Island under Lafayette, taking active part in the bat. there of 29th Aug.; in June, 1779, he helped to check the British advance for Springfield, N. J.; by the reduction of the line Jan. 1 (formation of 1781-83) the reg. became the 3rd Conn. and Capt. W. commanded it for a short time in the fall of that year; he retired from service June 1, 1783; settled in Weth. and was its Town Clerk for 20 yrs.; a rep to the Leg. for several sessions; d. on or about 14 Sept., 1812; mem. of the Soc. of the Cincinnati.—*See Yale in the Revolution*, p. 281.

He was prob. the Capt. Williams who, on the authority of an old lady of the Marsh family of Weth. is said to have escorted Maj. Andre, ~~arm~~ in arm, to the place of his execution, and who used to tell how Andre, when he saw the gallows, gave a great start, and then saying: "It will be but a momentary pang," passed on calmly and firmly.—*Miss E. E. Dana*.



- WILLIAMS, SOLOMON, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; enl. in Capt. Throop's Co., 1st Reg. Conn. line, Col. Huntington, 1 Jan., 1777, for the war; cr. to Cont. Army, Aug., 1778.
- WILLIAMS, WILLIAM, (S.) fifer, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 23 May, d. 30 July, 1775, before Boston.
- WINCHELL, EZEKIEL, cr. to Cont. Army, Aug. 1778; being then of Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- WITHERELL, DAVID, in Col. Canfield's Mil. Reg. at West Point, Sept. 1782.
- WOODHOUSE, JOHN, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; app. Oct. 1778, Ens. 2d Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., Alarm List; in Jan., 1780, app. Lieut. same Co. and Reg.
- WOODHOUSE, NATHANIEL, in Capt. Hanmor's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug. 1776.
- WOODHOUSE, LEMUEL, (perhaps should be Samuel) in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776.
- WOODHOUSE, SAMUEL, Ens. 2d Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., *Alarm List*, app. Jan. 1780.
- WOODWORTH, LYON, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, May 15, disch. 7 Dec., 1775; in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig. Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.
- WOLCOTT, DAVID, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775.
- WOLCOTT, ELISHA, in Capt. Hanmor's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776; was in N. Y. campaign of '76, and being a hatter by trade, was advised by Weth. to return home and make hats for the army.
- WOLCOTT, GERSHUN, in Capt. Hanmor's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- WOLCOTT, JOSIAH, service record same as preceding.
- WOLCOTT, SOLOMON, in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; Capt. Hanmor's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. to N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- WRIGHT, ASA, in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- WRIGHT, ASHBEL, (S.) in Lex. Alarm Co., 1775; enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 20 May, disch. 16 Oct., 1775.
- WRIGHT, BENJAMIN, one of 22 of crew of privateer brigantine *Gen. Greene*, from Weth., cap. by British, 1782; d. in prison at N. Y.
- WRIGHT, DAVID, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig. Peekskill, N. Y., 22 Apl.—10 May, 1777.
- WRIGHT, EBENEZER, Lieut., app. Jan., 1778, in 2nd Co., Sixth Mil. Reg., *Alarm List*; in Capt. E. Wright's (3rd) Co., 3rd Batt. at West Point, June, 1778.
- WRIGHT, ELIJAH, Capt. of 3d Co., 3rd Batt. commis., Nov., 1776 at Peekskill, N. Y., June, 1778.
- WRIGHT, ELIZUR, enl. Capt. Chester's (9th) Co., 2nd Conn. Reg., Col. Spencer, 13 May, disch. 17 Dec., 1775, before Boston; in Capt. Hanmor's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. for N. Y., Aug., 1776.
- WRIGHT, JOHN, commanded privateer *Enterprise*.
- WRIGHT, JOSEPH, ALLYN, 1st Lieut. 7th Conn. Reg., July 6—10 Dec., 1775; 1st. Lieut. 19th Cont. Inf., 1 Jan.-Dec. 31, 1776; 1st Lieut. 10th Conn. Reg., Col. Charles Webb; Capt. 5th Reg., Conn. Line, 1 Jan., 1777; continued as Capt. of a Co. in 2d Reg., Conn. Line (formation of 1781-83) under Col. Hermon Swift; prom. Maj. of 4th Reg., Conn. Line,

Dec., 1781; transf. to 3rd Conn. 1 Jan., 1783 and continued in the service till 1 June, 1783, retired with the army; an orig. mem. of Soc. of the Cincinnati.

WRIGHT, JUSTUS, in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Col. Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig. Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.-June, 1777.

WRIGHT, JOHN, service record same as preceding.

WRIGHT, MOSES, in Capt. Hanmor's Mil. Co., on bd. slp. *Anne*, bd. to N. Y., Aug., 1776.

WRIGHT, WILLIAM, also in Capt. Hanmor's Mil. Co., Aug., 1776; in Capt. Hez. Welles' (4th) Co., Wolcott's Reg., before Boston, Jan.-Mch., 1776; in Capt. Chester Welles' Co., Belden's Reg., Wolcott's Brig. Peekskill, N. Y., Mch.—June, 1777.

## CHAPTER XII.

### THE MARITIME HISTORY OF WETHERSFIELD.

[BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ.]

DURING THE year 1887, (March 5th to October 8th), Judge Adams wrote and published in the *Wethersfield Weekly Farmer*, a series of articles, 27 in number, upon the above-named subject, and entitled "Scraps of Wethersfield History." From these we have condensed, re-arranged and, in part, re-written the following chapter, which contains—in a form better adapted to the purposes of this history—the valuable facts which he had collected. *H. R. S.*]

To speak of "the maritime history" of an inland and purely agricultural town, such as Wethersfield is at present, seems, at first sight, to savor somewhat of sarcasm. If, however, we remember the broad river which winds through its meadows, and which is navigable for vessels of considerable size, from the sea to a point several miles above the town; and if we consider the peculiar fascination which the sea and all that pertains thereto, seems to have for the inhabitants of inland towns, it is not so difficult to realize that Wethersfield has had, ever since the days of its settlement, and to within the recollection of some now living, a history of navigation and commerce, highly creditable to the enterprise of its former inhabitants. The New England States, from the earliest days of their colonial existence, have given birth to hundreds, if not thousands, of hardy, intelligent men, who seemed as much at home upon the sea as upon land, and were ever half-farmer, half-sailor. And these men of amphibious tendencies, as we shall see in the case of Wethersfield, were not confined to the natives of the sea-coast.

*Ships and Ship-Building*, in the early days of the Connecticut Colony, is a subject which would well repay the labors of any one who should undertake to write it up, *in extenso*. Two centuries ago, the names applied to vessels, as descriptive of their different sizes, rigging, etc., were somewhat different from those now employed. Then, as now, for example, the term "ship" was applied to vessels having three masts and a square "rig." But, it was, also, applied to vessels which, as to *size*, whatever their style of rig, were quite too insignificant to

be considered as ships, in our present understanding of the term. The *Mayflower*, a large vessel for its day and which bore over a hundred passengers on its famous voyage to New England, in 1620, was yet only registered at 120 tons burden. Other three-masted vessels of that period were the "pink," square-rigged and somewhat smaller than the ship; the "snow," which was nearly barque-rigged; and the "barque," smaller than other three-masted vessels. Of the two-masted vessels, the only kind at first known, was the "ketch," in rig, much like the brigantine of the present day. The terms "brig" and "schooner" came into use at a later period. In 1680, there were but 26 vessels, of all kinds, owned in the Colony, and were thus classified, 4 ships, 3 pinks, 2 barks, 6 ketches and 11 sloops. None of these belonged to Wethersfield; and but one, a ship of 70 tons, registered from Middletown. Hartford had a sloop of 90 tons<sup>1</sup> (the only one of that tonnage in the Colony), which traded with Bristol, England; and the next largest was the brigantine *Dolphin* of New London, and of 80 tons burden. Of the "pinks" above referred to, two registered at 80 tons each; the largest "ketch" was 70 tons; the largest "barque" and "sloop" 30 tons each; and the smallest sloop eight tons. These, and other much smaller craft, were engaged in the West India and European trade, and were probably somewhat under-registered, in order to escape a part of the government tonnage-tax. Many of these Connecticut-built vessels were sold abroad. The Colony's whole commerce, at this period, was very small, and carried on mostly from New London, where all vessels had to "clear" and where a Naval Officer was stationed.<sup>2</sup> Goods could be imported then only from England, Wales, or some other British coast. This obtained until, in 1702, the number of "lawful ports" in the Connecticut Colony had been increased so as to include Saybrook, Guilford, New Haven, Milford, Stratford, Fairfield and Stamford also.

*Difficulties of Colonial Navigation.*—We must remember that, in the early times, there were many obstacles to ocean navigation which do not now exist. Many harbors were then unknown, even to those who were engaged in the coast trade; and charts of the inlets and sounds of our coast were unobtainable. Ship-yards were scarcer even than saw-mills; and ships were liable to capture by pirates, and during

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<sup>1</sup> The ton was then estimated at 2,240 pounds.

<sup>2</sup> By the Code of 1650, each town clerk was required to keep a registry of the quantity of powder and shot on board any boat or vessel departing from a town—the earliest provision extant as to army official examination of a vessel's cargo.



many years of the Colonial period, by French and Spanish privateers and war vessels. The several Colonies enacted restrictive laws as against each other; and, as early as 1672, the English Parliamentary Acts of Trade and Navigation were made to apply to the Colonies. In 1679, Edward Randolph was made the Royal Collector of Customs for New England, with his office at Boston. In 1680, a customs collector for the Crown, was appointed in each county; and in 1686, William Dyre, the Royal Sur-General of Customs for all America, appointed a deputy collector for Connecticut, at New London. In 1694, vessels were required, by Colonial law, to stop and pay "powder money" to each fort within whose range they came, or else they were liable to cannonade from the fort. In 1702, Saybrook, under a Colonial law, was made a Port of Entry for the Connecticut River, and allowed a naval officer; but neither he nor the Colonial naval officer at New London were recognized by the Crown; and vessels properly cleared from Saybrook were liable to seizure in foreign ports, because they could not produce clearance papers, signed by her Majesty's collector at New London, the then only port in Connecticut established by English authority. Indeed, it was not until 1776, that Middletown became a lawful port of entry and clearance, even under Colonial law; and, in the meantime, Saybrook as such a port, had been abolished; so that there was but one lawful port of entry on the Connecticut River—which is the condition to-day. By act of Congress, Middletown became such a port; the other towns upon the River being made ports of delivery—as they remain to this day.

An excise was laid upon beaver skins, as early as 1638; and trade in these furs could only be done by officers, appointed by the General Court, who collected a shilling per skin, for the Colonial treasury. Wethersfield's first collectors were George Hubbard and Richard Law. In 1659 a duty of 25 shillings for each imported butt of wine, and of 5s for each anchor of liquor, was claimed for the Colonial treasury. Samuel Boardman, ancestor of the Connecticut family of that name was then the collector for Wethersfield. Under the law of 1654, if the liquor was Barbadoes liquor (commonly known as "Kill Devil"), its landing from any vessel was prohibited. In 1662, an act was passed prohibiting the carrying of any corn (grain) or provision out of the River; and the customs-master in each town was required to enforce the observance of this law. It must not, however, be inferred from this that the duties of the customs-master were co-extensive with those of the collector or naval officer of to-day. In the same year the General Assembly required the custom-masters to collect an import duty of 25s

per hogshead, or two pence per pound, on tobacco "according to the law of England." In 1714, an excise or export duty of 20s per thousand was levied on barrel staves, and 30s per thousand on pipe staves, shipped to any of the neighboring Colonies. Wethersfield was, at this time, probably the largest producer of these articles in Connecticut. The following year, a Colonial law imposed a duty upon ship-timber, planks and boards shipped to same provinces; and a duty of 12s 6d was laid upon every £100 worth of goods imported here by non-inhabitants. In 1747, a five per cent *ad valorem* duty was placed upon goods imported from the other Colonies, if the importer resided in this Colony; but if he resided elsewhere the duty was  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. From the operation of this law—cast, bar and slit iron; steel; nails; salt; beaver, leather, deerskins; fish (dry, or salted); train oil; whalebone; rice; tar; turpentine; window-glass and lumber were exempted. But, instead of a duty on goods from Great Britain, the importer received a per cent premium; so that the coasting-trade was placed at a decided disadvantage, as compared with the European, or rather the English. In the same year, a heavy export duty was put upon all staves, headings, ship-timber, planks and bark, shipped from this to a neighboring Colony; and other customs laws were, from time to time, enacted both by Connecticut and the British Parliament, down to the period of the Revolution.

In 1726, a tax of 15s per ton's register was assessed upon the tonnage of vessels; the tax being collectible as other town taxes. This, and other considerations led to the habit of under-rating tonnage of vessels; making them to appear, in the returns, as less than their actual size.

Another hindrance to navigation—which arose after a prosperous coast-trade had been established between the Colonies and the West Indies, was the war between England on the one hand and Spain and France on the other; and, from the interruptions thus engendered, our coast commerce had hardly recovered when the Revolution began. Our own General Assembly, also, established many embargoes upon our own export trade.

For a long time, moreover, there were no light-houses and probably but few beacons, and buoys, along our coast. It was not until 1760 that a light-house was erected at New London; and then, although it was mainly paid for by a lottery, sanctioned by the General Assembly, vessels clearing from other ports than New Haven were required to pay light-house dues for its maintenance.

In 1800, John Cadwell, John Morgan and others of Hartford were incorporated as *The Union Company*, with power to erect "wharves,

piers and bridges" for the improvement of the navigation of the Connecticut River. This company constructed bars at several points between Hartford and Rocky Hill, and even as far as Middletown; and, though it is doubtful whether those constructed at Wethersfield were of any benefit to the channel; yet vessels arriving at or departing from that point, were obliged to pay to the company a tax of from \$5 to \$34, according to their draught of water. The Connecticut River Company, incorporated in 1824, was granted similar powers as to that part of the River above Hartford; and Vermont, in 1825, incorporated a similar company, with power to improve the river's navigation from Hartford to Fifteen-Mile Falls, at Barnet, Vt. By the aid of locks, at Windsor and other points above, navigation was rendered possible for small craft far up towards the headwaters of the Connecticut.

*Early Vessels at Wethersfield.*—It is pretty certain that Mr. JOHN OLDHAM was the first owner and master of any sailing vessel at Wethersfield, if not in the Colony. When he was murdered by the Indians, July 20th, 1636, near Block Island, he was a resident of Wethersfield, and it was on his vessel (sometimes called a "shallop," but oftener a "pinnace"—both being names given to small schooner-rigged craft) that he was slain. What his cargo was, is unknown, but in Wethersfield, he had raised a crop of Indian corn, and had swine at the time of his death.

In 1642, the River towns were authorized to co-operate in building a "Ship," probably at Hartford. The General Court appointed a committee of eight persons to "carry on the worke"; and Leonard Chester and Rich. Treat were the Wethersfield members. This is the first mention of ship-building in the Colony.

In September, 1648, THOMAS DEMING, of Wethersfield, a "ship carpenter," was granted land, by the Town, "upon the Common, by the landing-place"; both for his house and for "a worke yard." The shipyard then established, the first in Wethersfield, and perhaps in the Colony—was maintained down to a date within the memory of people now living. It was at that part of the Cove margin next west of the residence lately of John Hanmer.

In November, 1649, the General Court authorized SAMUEL SMITH "and the rest of the owners of the shipp at Wethersfield, to get and make so many pipestaves, as will freight out the said shipp the first voyage, provided they doe it out of the bounds of any of the Townes vppon the Riever within this Jurisdiction." (*Col. Col. Rec.* I, p. 200.) This ship was undoubtedly built by Deming; and, unless one had been

built by the united action of the Three River Towns in 1642, it was the first built in Connecticut. It was named the *Tryall*, and one "LERREBY" (Larrabee) was its master in 1650; and CHRISTOPHER FOX, of Wethersfield, its boatswain. He died 15 Dec., 1650, at Sadler's ordinary (inn) in Wethersfield, and Sadler was appointed his executor; his inventory (*Htfd. Prob. Wills & Deeds* II, p. 4) shows that his books and nautical instruments were appraised at £3 value. Deming, the ship builder, removed to Easthampton, L. I. The *Trial*, in 1662, was owned in New London, and in that year John Edwards, Sr., of Wethersfield, imported sugar in her from the West Indies.

Pipestaves seem to have been the principal article of export at that period. As early as 1641, the law provided for their dimensions and for an inspector of them in each town. Wethersfield was authorized to export 30,000 per annum and Hartford and Windsor 20,000 each. In the northern part of the Wethersfield parish now known as Newington the pipestave industry was so largely carried on, as to give the name of Pipe Stave Swamp to a considerable section there, and Piper's River to its principal stream. The staves were shipped, in bundles, or "shooks," to the Barbadoes and the West Indies; many of them returning thence in the shape of pipes and hogsheads, filled with molasses, sugar, or rum; while thousands of them were made into casks here, which were filled with salt beef, pork and fish; kiln-dried corn meal, etc., and exported principally to the West Indies. Timber and lumber formed a very large item of export in our earlier Colonial commerce, while West Indian salt figured heavily in our imports.

Shipments of horses, to the West Indies, began very soon after 1700. This trade was continued for more than a hundred years.

In 1730, an official report to the British Board of Trade makes the whole number of vessels in the Colony forty-two; whereof the sloop *Thankful & Ann*, 18 tons, is the only one credited to Wethersfield. But it is probable that of the five credited to Hartford and two to Middletown, some were owned in whole or in part in Wethersfield. The principal articles of export are stated at this time to have been horses and lumber (to the West Indies), and tar and turpentine (to Boston, New York and Rhode Island); while the articles imported (from the West Indies), were sugar, salt, molasses and rum. "European goods" were obtained from Boston and New York. Within the next twenty years beef, pork and flour were added to the list of principal articles exported to the West Indies; and wheat, rye and Indian corn to New York and Boston. Some vessels went to Lisbon and the Mediterranean with fish. In 1756, the whole number of ves-



sels in the Colony was seventy-two, the largest of which were the ship *Lion* and the snow *Leopard*, each 90 tons. The Report from which this appears does not state where any vessel belonged; but it is known that the *Lion* was built in Hartford, and originally belonged there. In 1762, the number of vessels had increased to 114 in the Colony.

Our foreign commerce, as well as our ship building was much crippled during the various wars of the latter part of the 17th and early part of the 18th Centuries. From the report made to the Lords of the Privy Council, by Gov. Leete of Connecticut in 1680, it appears that there were but five vessels in all the towns on Connecticut River, and none of these belonged to Wethersfield. From the same document, we learn that horses, rye, wheat, barley, pease, wool, hemp, flax, cider (made from wild or choked pears), tar and pitch were shipped from Connecticut to the Barbadoes, Jamaica "and other Caribbean islands," Fayal and Madeira; but most of them were taken to Boston and there "bartered for clothing." Sugar, cotton, wool and rum were brought from the West Indies; wine from Fayal and Madeira. "Most people plant most so much tobacco as they spend."

We are unable to give satisfactory statistics concerning the amount of shipping interests in Wethersfield since the middle of the 18th century. The great bulk of the foreign trade was in the exportation of beaver, deer skins, pipestaves, lumber, bricks, grain, beef, pork and fish (the last three articles salted), horses, flax seed and onions. In later days garden seeds and tobacco have been shipped in considerable quantities. Within the last ten years, several thousand tons of ice, annually, have been produced; mostly for use in this State. The imports were mainly of "European goods," salt, rum, molasses and sugar; and "West India goods" in general. Wethersfield was, by Congress, made a "port of delivery," in the Middletown district, in 1799; and so remains to-day.

*Warehouses, Landing Places, etc.*—In course of time, it became necessary to erect warehouses by the river side. As early as 1662, the Town gave to SAMUEL (son of Gov.) WELLES a piece of land "upon the Common, at the Landing Place, to set up a warehouse, and to no other use whatever." This site was by the side of the present Cove; the Common, at that time, being a much larger tract than at present.

In 1671, the Town gave JOHN CHESTER (son of Mr. Leonard) a warehouse site at the same landing place, and in the same year, his brother Stephen Chester obtained a grant of "2 or 3 rods in breadth, next unto his brother's land, to build a warehouse upon." In 1672, this grant was revoked, but gave Chester, in lieu thereof, a piece north-





BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF WETHERSFIELD.



*Photo. by  
Albert Morgan.*

THE COVE.



THE COVE BY MOONLIGHT.

*Photo by Jared B. Standish.*

east of a piece which he had bought of Thomas Hurlburt. Hurlburt's lot was a small piece, also at this landing place, which the Town had given him to set a blacksmith shop upon.

In December, 1672, the Town, being about to divide up the land on the east side of Rocky Hill, reserved five acres "for a landing place." JOSEPH SMITH, one of the first settlers of that section, was given twenty acres, conditioned that he maintain a road and gate through the tract, to this reserved tract; it being also stipulated with Smith that the five acres thus reserved shall be "for the public use of the Town in general, or for any of the inhabitants in pertickular, for a common landing place, or for building ships, or rather vessels." This tract now belongs to the Town of Rocky Hill, and adjoins the River, just north of, and perhaps including, the ferry landing there, and there was a ship-yard there for many years.

In 1683, another warehouse site was granted, this time to TIMOTHY HYDE, son of George Hyde, a Boston ship carpenter. It was 40 feet square and "below Mr. Stephen Chester's warehouse." In 1689, JOSEPH (son of Rev. Joseph) ROWLANDSON, was given a piece "30 foot square on y<sup>e</sup> Common, on y<sup>e</sup> bank of y<sup>e</sup> Great River, below Mr. Stephen Chester's warehouse," for a warehouse. Finally, in 1691, the Town granted another site for a warehouse to NICHOLAS MOORCOCK—a tract 40 feet square, near Stephen Chester's warehouse—with liberty to build a wharf "in y<sup>e</sup> said River" (near the Cove) adjoining his warehouse—the wharf to be free to all the inhabitants of the "town."

These grants show that the landing places on the N. E. corner of the Common was, in those days, a scene of considerable commercial activity. But one of these old warehouses now remains—the old gambrel-roofed building with sides of weather-beaten oak planks, belonging to the heirs of the late Capt. John Hanmer. We think it was last used by that enterprising shipowner, Justus Riley, deceased.

The River, before the year 1700, had already so far shifted its channel from its old position, in the bend N. W. of the Common, as to render the water front at that point now no longer any part of the River proper. It had become the present "Cove." Thenceforth, the place was pretty nearly abandoned as a public river-landing place. As the River's bed was then far (almost three-fourths of a mile) to the east of its present position, opposite to the present Wethersfield wharf—the shipping place was not changed to that point (unless, perhaps, some of it was done from vessels moored alongside the perpendicular bank of the meadow there); but it *was* changed to Stepney. Thereafter, for many years, the river landing at Stepney (very nearly where the ship-



ping at Rocky Hill is done, to-day) was the principal landing place used instead of the abandoned one at the Cove. So, it happened that Stepney became one of the chief landing places on the River. Some evidence of the amount of business that must have been done 150 years ago (and which continued to be done for more than an hundred years) at Stepney, exists in the ancient warehouses still to be seen there. The late Roderick Grimes was the last of the leading shipping merchants there; and his ancestors for several generations had been engaged in the foreign (chiefly the West Indies) trade. The name Stepney was given to the parish there, in 1723.

Nor should we forget, among the old Wethersfield warehouses, that of Justus Riley, Sen., on the South side of Chemical Lane, and once occupied as a seed warehouse by Messrs. Johnson, Robbins & Co. From it Hartford merchants used to obtain supplies of molasses, sugar and rum. From this warehouse, also, Mr. Riley used to send large numbers of horses, overland to New London, for exportation to the West Indies—as many, it is said, as 100 at a time.

But while the bulk of the town's shipping was done at Stepney, some was also done—probably from about 1700 to 1730—on the east side of “the Rocks,” northeast of the high ground between the Cove and the River. In 1723, the Town agreed with the heirs of Samuel Buck, whose homestead was then the most northerly one on the east side of High St. (or the Common) for a highway to this landing place, extending easterly along the north side of the said homestead, to the River. As compensation, the Town permitted the heirs to run a fence from the top of the fence to “y<sup>e</sup> Great Rock.” A meadow road, north of Buck's place, and a dwelling house north of said road, had formerly existed, but the sites of both had been swept away, until the solid rock having been reached, the work of devastation by the floods was arrested. The earliest mention found of this Great Rock is in 1691. Probably the immense mass of soil which has been carried away from that vicinity contributed largely to the filling up of the east channel of Wright's Island.

It is obvious that any wharf built on the east water front of the Buck lot above mentioned could not long exist in a serviceable condition; and, as it could not be approached from the south, it was not easily accessible.

The situation naturally invited an attempt to establish a landing further south. In 1764, Dr. Ezekiel Porter bought the Noyes-Wickham meadow pasture lot bounded S. by road to the present Wethersfield landing; N. by the River and W. by the rears of the High St.





VIEW NORTHWARD FROM A POINT OPPOSITE THE OLD LATTIMER WHARF.



*Photographs by J. B. Standish.*

*Illustrations by Hartford Engraving Co.*

VIEW SOUTHWARD FROM THE SAME LOCATION.

homesteads of Nath'l Stillman, Samuel Curtis, Joseph Woodhouse, Francis Hanmer and others. This lot, which ranged N. and S., belonged by inheritance to Dr. Porter's daughter, the wife of Frederick Butler. Upon it, Dr. Porter erected a house or shop, on the high ground near the River bank; and Daniel Woodhouse and Capt. Simeon Stillman erected houses, also; and probably a private way led up to these dwellings, from the road on the south. In 1792, a highway was laid out by the Town, extending from the east and west road on the south, to the River on the north. It was laid out near the land of heirs of Dr. Porter in part, and partly over the lands of the other parties mentioned, in such a way as to leave the Woodhouse and Stillman dwellings on the west side and the Porter building on the east. It is probable that soon thereafter, Frederick Butler built a wharf, nearly to the rear of the Porter building. In 1812, this building was bought and occupied by Capt. Samuel Latimer—having previously been occupied by Jonathan Bunce and, after him, by Capt. Jesse Goodrich. This Butler wharf probably became the first of the Latimer wharves, but could not have remained long in use. Only its remains can now be seen, at low water; while the Latimer house, yielding to the gradual undermining of the river bank, has entirely disappeared. It is possible that this wharf was built by Dr. Porter himself, when he built the shop which later became a dwelling. This highway is now known as Water St.

It was about 1819, that Solomon Latimer (father of Capt. Samuel) bought land on the south side of the eastern terminus of the road to the present landing and built a wharf near said terminus (a few rods north of the present steamboat store-house), which for many years was much used as a landing and shipping place—although, for some years prior to the organization of the Wethersfield Wharf Co., this (the second Latimer) wharf, was in a dilapidated condition. Solomon Latimer, also, occupied a two-story dwelling house on the south of the road to this wharf, built by Nathaniel Goodrich, but which was in course of time undermined by the river. The highway to the present landing has always borne the name of "Road to the Great Meadow."

Until after the treaty of peace between England and France in 1763, our foreign commerce had been so much disturbed that Wethersfield had but little doing in that line.

From 1730 to 1795, there is no extant list of vessels, giving their places of ownership, etc. When the traitor Arnold burned New London, in 1781, the Royal Custom House was burned with the rest, and with it all the records of our Colonial commerce up to that time. In



the old *State* Custom House of Middletown, there should be records of registered vessels, etc., from 1776 to 1795, but they are not to be found.

Recurring, now, to the subject of vessels built or owned in Wethersfield, we may mention that when, in 1649, RICHARD SMITH removed from Martha's Vineyard (Martin's, he called it) to Wethersfield, he came in a vessel of his own. He was then about 30 years old, and a son-in-law of Richard Treat, the settler. Perhaps, he was the father of that Richard Smith, Jr., who, in 1674, was licensed to keep the ferry at Wethersfield. But, whoever attempts to distinguish between the three Richard Smiths, at least, in the village in 1649, will find himself involved in a hopeless genealogical tangle.

Among the leading firms of the 18th century who figured in Wethersfield as shipping merchants, was that of the MESSRS. WILLIAMS & CO. Its senior member was Sheriff Ezekiel Williams. Jonathan Trumbull, of Lebanon, afterwards Governor of Connecticut, and called "Brother Jonathan," by Washington, (to whom he was a very "right arm" of defense and assistance during the Revolutionary period), was at one time, a member of this firm, and it is probable that Col. Wadsworth, of Hartford, was also connected with its operations. They did a large foreign business; owned, or ran the sloop *Dove*, in 1738-9, to the West Indies. In 1754-5, Gen. Phineas Lyman of Suffield (a conspicuous figure in the French War) and Col. Joseph Pitkin of Hartford were associated with Elisha Williams, Jr., in adventures to the West Indies. in the sloop *Dolphin*. Both these vessels were probably built at Stepney, though, possibly, at the Cove. In the shipping list of the Connecticut Colony made to the Royal Board of Trade, at London, in 1756, they were rated, respectively, as of 35 and 40 tons burden. Gen. Lyman was part owner of the *Dolphin*; and Peter Burnham, at one time, her master. In her outward voyage she carried grain, pipestaves, beef, pork, hay, tobacco, shingles, brick and sheep; and, in return, brought back rum, sugar, molasses and salt. Onions, also, formed a part of almost every export cargo from this town.

The sloop *Lark* was running in the foreign trade between 1740 and 1750; but, as she is not named in the list of 1756, it may be inferred that she was either lost, or worn out. BENJAMIN TRYAN was at one time her master. Amasa Adams, Sen., ship carpenter, had much to do with the construction of both the *Lark* and *Dolphin*; indeed, we find no one else's name mentioned in connection with their building. In 1747, the sloop *Windsor* was in commission, JONATHAN TRYON, master, and he with Timothy Seymour, Sen., seem to have owned her. In 1767-'70, JOHN WEBB, of Rocky Hill, was master of the Slp. *Fair Trader*, in the

West Indies trade, to the ports of Nevis, Antigua and Cat Island (the first land discovered by Columbus and by him called San Salvador), exporting cattle, swine, bricks, shingles and grain. John Robins shipped much of his grain in her. Beef and pork were "cut up," packed and coopered on the dock at Rocky Hill. In one cargo alone was a shipment of 1,700 pounds of "bread" (ship-bread, of course), baked, probably, in the bakery then existing at Rocky Hill—at Dividend. Capt. Webb also owned the upper wharf at Rocky Hill, the lower one being owned by one Pomeroy. Among the articles brought back from the West Indies were "firestones"—more than a thousand—and *lignum vitæ*. In the crew list of the *Fair Trader*, we find the names of Luke Fortune, Simeon Griswold, Luke Osborn, Seth Belden, Hezekiah Blinn, James Lusk, Prescott and Stephen Bulkeley, of Wethersfield, some of them were afterwards masters of vessels. In one trip—as appears from the log book of the *Fair Trader*—she spoke, or found in port, the sloops of Capts. Goodrich, Warner, Boardman, Newson, Butler and Riley—the full names of these captains are not given, presumably they were all Wethersfield men. Probably *Elizur* Goodrich, *George* Butler and *John* Newson were among them. There were so many Captains Riley and Boardman that it would be quite useless to conjecture as to which of them were met with on this trip.

To illustrate the difficulties of this old time sailing vessel navigation we may mention that it took the *Fair Trader*, in 1768, thirteen days to get from Saybrook Bar to Rocky Hill; and then only by resorting to towing (by row boats), tracking and warping. When Pistol Bar, a little this side of Middletown Upper House (now Cromwell) was reached, it became necessary to "lighten" the vessel, with Mr. Pomeroy's scows, before the sloop could be got over the bar! Two round trips per year were about all a vessel could accomplish, in those days. The difficulties of navigation in Connecticut River are somewhat illustrated by the following letter addressed to Dr. Griswold, by an old resident of Rocky Hill:

"There is one vessel that I do not recollect Judge Adams as having noticed in his history that attracted much notice in its day. It was a full sized ship owned by the Rileys of Wethersfield. There was a Capt. Riley up there that went under the cognomen of Capt 'Debt. Riley.' I think he owned the ship. I have seen it many times. The last time she came up she lay wind-bound for three days just below Saybrook, & was finally 'walked' up the river. It was done in this way. Taking advantage of the tide, a long rope to which a kedge was attached was sent out ahead, then the crew manned the rope & walked

the length of the deck. Each man as he reached the end returned, took hold again in the rear of the last man. It was slow work but they reached Wethersfield on three tides. Between tides the sails were unbent & her upper spars taken down, she was thoroughly refitted. I do not remember her name or what finally became of her. She was, I think about 300 tons burden, her hull was painted white with three black stripes over her waies & upper work; was built much sharper than the generality of large vessels of those days. There was also a large brig owned partly in Htfd. and in Wethersfield, and called the *Sea Island*. During the war of 1812-15 there were two ships & several other large vessels lay at the Island opposite Gildersleeves' in Middletown, and three large schooners lay for a year or more just below 'Hogbrook', one was called the *Archer*, owned by Joseph Bulkely."

The principal obstacle to navigation of the River above Wethersfield was Glastonbury Bar. The General Assembly, in 1764, authorized a Hartford Company to so improve this bar that a depth of seven feet of water might be obtained upon it. Probably, their efforts failed, as, in 1771, Jabez Hamlin, of Middletown, John Ledyard, of Hartford, and Silas Deane, of Wethersfield, were directed, by the same authority, to report what buoys were needed along the River, between Hartford and Saybrook. Again, in 1772, they with Matthew Talcott, Samuel Olcott and John Chenevard, of Hartford; Richard Alsop and John Stocking, of Middletown; and Ebenezer Plummer, of Glastonbury, were directed to place buoys and water marks on all bars and shoals, they to defray the expense (estimated at £337) and to reimburse themselves by a lottery, or series of lotteries.

The brig *Two Brothers*, Capt. Bigelow, master, was from 1767 to 1770, plying between Rocky Hill and the South American ports of Surinam and Pernambuco—making stops, also, at the British West Indies ports of Nevis, St. Lucia and the Barbadoes. In 1768, her mate was Simeon Griswold, of Wethersfield, and from the log kept by him, we learn that her cargoes were of much the same articles as those of the *Fair Trader*. Brick and *onions* made up a considerable part of the freight taken on at Rocky Hill. She carried four passengers, at least. Horses, as usual, were not shipped until the vessel reached New London, whither the animals had been taken overland from Wethersfield. Freight was also taken on at Middletown; and onions from Martin Kellogg's place at Newington; also wooden ware and broom stuff—the latter probably of splints, or broken twigs, for this was before Dr. Franklin's introduction of broom corn into this country. Spanish and French ports seem to have been studiously shunned;

indeed, the then existing influence and commercial limitations imposed by the British government, practically compelled the American Colonial traders to visit only British ports. Surinam was a Dutch port. The *Two Brothers* found at that and other ports, visited on this trip, the vessels of Capts. Rhodes, Harris, Miner and Bulkeley, probably all Wethersfield men—to judge from their surnames. But one trip was taken from Hartford, but a long delay consequent on grounding on Glastonbury Bar, caused a comment duly entered in the log and concluding with “D—— b y° place.”<sup>1</sup> On the passage out, Noah Willoughby died, and the log says “We hove his body overboard.”

In 1748, THOMAS WELLES, great grandson of Gov. Thos. Welles, and Elizur Talcott were concerned in the building of a vessel at Glastonbury, which, we presume, was launched in Keney’s Cove.

In 1768, Capt. JOHN BULKELEY (son of Charles, Sen.) was running a sloop between Rocky Hill and Nevis—stopping also at Anguilla, one of the Carribean Islands. He carried oxen and cows. The Wethersfield trade was also carried on with Antigua, St. Eustatia, Martinico, Guadeloupe and other islands of the same group; and St. Christopher (“St. Kitts”) was a favorite port. A trade was also springing up with Ireland, whither our vessels carried flax-seed, then and long after one of our staple productions. To Gibraltar and Bombay they carried flour, lumber, “stores for muling,” and mules; the latter were sold in the West Indies. To Lisbon and Bilboa we carried fish and brought back wines; lumber and pot-ashes were taken to England. Some of our vessels went to Berbice, a port in Surinam. We may add that, a hundred years earlier (after the Pequot Campaign, where so many were taken captive) Indians had been taken from the Connecticut River and sold as slaves in the West Indies; though evidence is wanting to show whether any went from Wethersfield.

LUKE DEMING, who at one time, owned the famous Webb house in Wethersfield, was captain of a vessel trading to New York; as also, in 1774, was Levi Riley, with a load of onions, and at the same time John Wright.

The sloop *Ann* was built at Stepney, in 1773, by John Ames and Joseph Dimock, for SAMUEL BOARDMAN, one of the leading merchants of Wethersfield. His store was on the east side of Broad St.; earlier, it had been on Hale’s corner, on the West side. His brother Levi had an eighth interest in the sloop; and John Wright, who assisted in

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<sup>1</sup> A most interesting analysis of this old log-book, was given by Judge Adams in a paper read before the Conn. Historical Society, April 13, 1881, and published in the *Conn. Courant* of that date.



building her, became her master—going in his sleigh to Canaan—a six days' trip, to get the iron needed in her construction. This was the sloop in which Capt. John Hanmer's Militia Company went to New York, to join the American army just before the battle of Long Island. The *Ann* plied to Dominica and other West Indian ports, in the cattle trade. Capts. Levi Boardman and Charles Bulkley (brother of Capt. John) became masters of this sloop, as also, in 1775, did Luke Fortune. The same Samuel Boardman also builded a schooner *The Speedwell*, just after completing the *Ann*. Capt. John Wright wrote to him from New York, in 1773, that Capt. Deane (Barnabas?) had told him that a man-of-war (British, of course) was cruising between Montauk Point and Block Island; and that if the schooner was found with contraband goods on board, she would be seized. It should be explained that all Connecticut shipping, bound south, necessarily passed oceanward between these two points, after having cleared at New London.

In 1772, Joseph Smith, of Rocky Hill (?), Francis Hanmer, Jr., Thomas Kilby and Thos. Newson were masters of vessels from this vicinity—the latter, during the Revolution, commanded a privateer. There was a Capt. Williams with a vessel in the West Indies trade, just prior to the Revolution; as also were the sloops *Polly* and *Hannah* and *Sea Flower* and *Catharine* and the schooner *Industry*, trading from Wethersfield—though whether owned there or not, is uncertain. Capt. ELIZUR GOODRICH (son of Hezekiah) was not only shipmaster, before the Revolution, but the owner of the sloop *Betsy*. There was another sloop of the same name, at about the same time, of which Daniel Collins and Phineas Holmes were masters, and of which, about 1776 or 1777, William Robbins was in command—possibly as a privateer, as she then carried two swivel guns.

Capt. BELDEN BOARDMAN (one of two sons, both captains, of Samuel) commanded the sloop *Polly*, before 1776; she had a crew of six, and was registered as of 67 tons burden—rather large for a sloop in those days. The schooner *Rosemary* was owned by Samuel Boardman, Benjamin Catlin and perhaps others, at about this time. In 1778, Catlin who was, or had been an employee of Boardman, sold out to the latter, in 1778, his one-fourth interest in the vessel. He was at that time or certainly in '77, on board the man-of-war *Trumbull*.

Capt. JOSEPH ALLYN, who came from Barnstable, Mass., to Wethersfield, in 1707, was, in 1721, commanding a sloop between Wethersfield and Boston and seems to have been an active sailor. His daughter Mary, became the mother of James Otis, the Massachusetts patriot. Both the Otis and Allyn surnames are preserved as Christian names

in the Stillman family of Wethersfield with which they are allied by marriage.

The war of the Revolution caused a most serious interruption to Wethersfield's commerce. Embargoes, laid by the General Assembly of the State, forbade the departure of vessels from this State; and, if they ventured to disobey, they were liable to seizure by the British armed cruisers. It was the fate of some Connecticut vessels to fall into the hands of the British. Among these were a sloop, the *Polly*, a vessel called the *Two Brothers*; another called the *Capt. Stillman*, and a schooner, *Olive*, whereof one Bulkeley was master. It is more than probable that these were Wethersfield vessels, since all trace of Wethersfield vessels, just prior to the war, disappear after its close. The following interesting letter written by Jno. Wright, from the original in possession of Mr. W. F. J. Boardman, of Hartford, throws a little light upon the difficulties of commerce during the Revolutionary period:

“New York, October 25th, 1774.

“Sirs—I arivd here Last Sunday, and Capt. Boardman, Kilbey, George Kilborn, George Burr, Daniel Hinsdale all arivd here Last Fryday. Kilbey has Sold his wheat for 6—4 pr bushel and his Oinions for 19 pr hand. I have not sold anything but my wheat yet, and that I sold at 6—4, which is the price curant. Oinions is very dull, the most they are sold for is 20 pt. in goods. But I shall make all the despatch that is possible, and do the best I can with them. I do not intend to stay here more than seven or eight days at furthest. Kilbey has sold fifteen hundred bushels of wheat at Rising of 6s. I could do the same to be brought here in three or four weeks, but I dare not engage, for I have not got cash to purchase it. But I make no thought but I will keep up as high as 6s. if not higher all this fall. Price Curant here is for West Indes Rum 3s, 3d, Jamaca Spirits 4s, 2d. Mollasses 1s 10d. Brown Sugar and Loaf is high, tea 4s 6d. I am Informed by gentlemen that I make Dependence on that flaxseed sells Curent at 9s per bushel, Now and they think it will fetch 12s per bushel Soon. I would be glad if you would Inform Gershom Wolcott of the price of flaxseed and wheat, because he told Me when I Left home if flaxseed would answer he would ship 200 bushels by Me Next trip. On frate I wish you would Engage Me as Much frate as you Can for Next trip. I Believe it would answer you very well to buy wheat, flaxseed or Old Corn to ship here. Old Corn sells at 3s 8d and Rye at 3s 6d. The General Congress I am informed has brok up and there Resolves are Now printing and are Expected here to Morrow so

that I shall be able to Inform you Better how times is by the Next post, which oportunity I shall Embrace, it is very Daingerus to Bring any Counterband goods here Now, for the Man of War and Custom house officers are as strict as ever they were in the world before, that pirate Colding A searchere has seized five vessels and cargoes within this four days, whose cargoes consisted chiefly of tea, and has got them all chained alongside the Man of war ships, they search Every vessel that comes in here; let them come by day or night. Be so kind as to Let My Wife know that I am well and expect to be at home in about A fortnight and find her so. No more presant. Sir I am

“Your friend and wellwisher

“JNO. WRIGHT.

“N. B. I pray you would be so kind as Not to let any body the price of wheat, flaxseed or Indian corn because there is some prospect of making something if it is kept private from the Farmer.”

Afterwards Wright became part owner of the *Speedwell*, which was commanded in time by Capts. Oliver Treat, Sam. Rose and John Wright, down to 1777. In 1779 (?), she seems to have been in service as a *privateer*, under Capt. James Hoyt, having one carriage gun, with small arms.

But some of the old vessels and sea-captains continued in the mercantile marine, notwithstanding the war. When, in October, 1776, the State was in urgent need of salt, for the use of the army, Capt ELIZUR GOODRICH was specially permitted to go with his sloop, the *Betsy*, in quest of this article. He made a successful voyage, taking out, for exchange, 80 barrels of beef, 15 of pork, 25 of flour, 6 oxen and 60 dozen fowls. Our old acquaintance, the *Speedwell*, in July, 1777, received a special permit to go for salt. JOHN DEMING was then her master. He took out 300 bushels of corn, 200 of rye, 20 barrels of rye flour and two of beans, when he sailed from Wethersfield. In 1776, molasses and sugar were shipped from Pomeroy's store, at Rocky Hill, to Norwalk and to New York City. This was, probably, Oliver Pomeroy, the wharf-owner already mentioned.

Capt. ALLYN STILLMAN possessed much skill as a navigator. In July 1777, the State chartered a vessel to import a cargo of salt, and placed him in command. Whither he sailed does not appear, but he came back fully laden. By direction of the State, he discharged half of his cargo at Norwich; the other half (excepting what was needed as ballast) was ordered to be left at Bedford, now New Bedford, Mass.—a favorite retreat for privateers in that day; the ballast to be left at

Hartford. The cargo must have been a large one; for the ballast-stock, left at Hartford, in the Commissary's department, was drawn upon for many months.<sup>1</sup>

The history of such of Wethersfield's mariners as were active in the Revolutionary War, either in the infant navy of the United States, or as privateers, has been given in our previous (Revolutionary) history.

Among other owners of vessels in the last century, were Joseph Webb, Barnabas Deane, William Griswold and Justus Riley. WEBB was a wealthy merchant, and died at the age of 35. DEANE built a brigantine, at Wethersfield; and ran it as a privateer, in 1775. She is supposed to have been taken by the British, in the expedition to Penobscot, in 1779. Capt. GRISWOLD, at Rocky Hill, built and owned the brigantine *Minerva*, which was chartered by both the Colony and the United States, and as a vessel of war rendered valuable service. Capt. Riley had several vessels. He was a part owner of the brig *Commerce*, of which James Riley was master; famous for its history, as detailed in *Riley's Narrative*. Capt. RILEY'S old warehouse, with its sides of white oak planks, may still be seen, on the bank of the Cove, near the house lately of John Hanmer, deceased. It was probably built before his day, and is on the land granted by the Town, at the "Landing Place," when the River flowed along this same bank.

Wethersfield sea-captains and mariners have been almost "too numerous to be mentioned." The Beldens, Blins, Boardmans, Bulkeleys, Chesters, Demings, Hammers, Goodriches, Griswolds, Hurlburts, Latimers, Lovelands, Montagues, Newsons, Palmers, Rileys, Rhodeses, Roses, Robbinses, Savages, Stillmans, Treats, Tryons, Webbs, Welleses, Warners, Williamses, Woodhouses, and other families—have contributed to the list which concludes this chapter.

The peculiar prominence given to the culture of onions, at Wethersfield, required the use of many schooners and sloops for the transportation of these bulbs to the general market, at New York. As late as 25 or 30 years ago, vessels laden with onions, mostly in "ropes," were constantly seen lying at the bulkheads of Burling and Peck's slips in that city. But to-day, tobacco is raised on many of the old onion grounds; and steamboats and railroads have obtained the carrying-trade of the onion crops of recent years.

Whaling vessels have been commanded by Wethersfield men. LOUIS WILLIAMS was, in 1887, the master of a whaler in the Pacific fleet; and is

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<sup>1</sup> Capt. Allyn Stillman's vessel was the carrier of nearly all this Government Salt during the Revolutionary period. He was a grandson of Joseph Allyn, a prominent citizen of Wethersfield.



probably the only person from this town who follows the seas in this capacity.

Wethersfield and Glastonbury were, by Act of Congress, made ports of delivery, in the Middletown district, in 1799; and so remain to-day.

In No. XXII of these sketches, Judge Adams writes: "Since about the first of July of the present year, the records of the Custom House, for the District of Middletown, have been removed from Middletown, and lodged in the new "Government" building, at Hartford. This has afforded me an opportunity to consult records which I did not have when this series of articles was begun. \* \* \* But, unfortunately, all records of registration of vessels prior to 1804, are missing. It is surmised that they are at Washington; where the evidence they contain would be useful in connection with spoilation claims. So, also, the records of registrations for a period of fourteen years (1810-1824), are gone—no one knows whither. Enrollment records are missing for the four years, 1799 to 1802, inclusive; and for the nine years from 1806 to 1814, inclusive. All these periods were important ones in the maritime history of the township. The earliest official records now known of, for this district (which includes all ports between the districts of New London and New Haven), begin with the enrollments for the year 1795.

#### WETHERSFIELD MARINERS, SHIP-OWNERS, SHIPBUILDERS AND SHIPPING MERCHANTS.

NOTE—by the Editor.—We have brought the consecutively arranged portion of Judge Adams' *Sketches of Wethersfield's Maritime History* down to the Revolutionary period. It now becomes necessary that the immense amount of notes which he had collected concerning the *Seafaring Men, Ship-Builders, Shipping Merchants*. etc., of the Town, (originally jotted down in loose form for newspaper serial publication and considerably augmented during their publication in the *Farmer*, by his discoveries of new facts and material, as well as by the information from others who were interested in his work), should be sifted, collated and put into some form of arrangement more coherent and easy of reference than that of its original newspaper issue. It is evident that such was the author's intention, if—as at one time appeared to be likely—the series might have been issued in book, or pamphlet form. As he says in closing these "Scraps of Wethersfield History," "it is not claiming too much to say that no other township in Connecticut has had written anything like so full an account of its maritime doings;

and, indeed, few towns have furnished so many navigators, adventurers, ship-owners, and ship-builders. The subject was worthy of the attention it has received, for it has involved great commercial interests, great hardships and perils, and the sacrifice of some lives \* \* \*

I have endeavored, without fee or reward, to rescue from oblivion the names of those who, having 'gone down to the sea in ships' have come to an untimely end. Some rest in their watery graves, there to remain until the sea shall give up its dead; others lie in unknown graves in foreign lands; and, it is due to the memory of those departed ones that some record shall be made of their names and doings while they were with us and of us."

We have deemed it best that this valuable material should be arranged *alphabetically*, and in as condensed form as possible.

#### A LIST OF SEA-CAPTAINS, SHIP-BUILDERS, SHIP-OWNERS, AND SEAFARING MEN, WHO WERE NATIVES, OR RESIDENTS OF WETHERSFIELD.

ABBEY, STEPHEN, 1810, master of the sloop *Merino*, owned by John Williams, 2d, and built at Stepney. He res. in Glastonbury.—*information by Mr. Chas. Williams of Ry-Hill, son of the owner, John Williams, 2d.*

ADAMS, AMASA, Sen. son of Benjamin; ship-builder.

ADAMS, SYLVESTER, s. of Amasa, Jr., and *Sarah Griswold*, b. 1783; rem. to Midd. and became, with Ackley Gibbs, owner of several vessels on the river.

ADAMS, JOSEPH, s. of Joseph and Mehitabel (*Barrett*) was, in 1828, part owner and master of slp. *Galen*—Stephen B. Goodwin being the other owner.

ADAMS, GEORGE, s. of Uzziel and bro. of the late Horace, lost at sea, 1827 ae. 30; his wife was a sister of the late John Montague; his son George W. now res. Weth.

ADAMS, WELLES, in 1830, with James Blinn and Stephen B. Goodwin part owner of schr. *Wanton*, Capt. Samuel Latimer, trading to Charleston, S. C.

AMES, WILLIAM, at Ry-Hill, 1803, part owner of slp. *Prudence*; uncertain whether he was s. of Robert and Sarah, and b. 1768; or of John and Abigail Butler and b. 1765; if the latter he d. *acc.* to *Hinman*, 1811.

AMES, JOHN, of Ry-Hill, s. of Robert; m. Abigail Butler; d. *acc.* to *Hinman*, 1790; master carpenter of ship yard, at Ry-Hill.

AMES, PHILEMON, s. of John, also ship carpenter; m. Ruth Hurlburt; died ae. 30; had one ch. Eunice, who m. Frederick Robbins; sloop *Prudence*, built 1803, was one of vessels built by Philemon.

ARCHER, BENJAMIN, of Ry-Hill, at one time master of schr. *Archer*. During the Embargo of War of 1812, this vessel, with the *Julia*, and a brig. were laid up for a year or more, below Hog Brook. Capt. Archer's second wife was Chloe (dau. of Wm.) Williams..

AYRAULT, Capt. NICHOLAS, who. d. 1775 ae. 70; prob. gd-s. of Dr. Nicholas, the French Huguenot who came to Weth. about 1686. Prob. engaged in the Virginia trade.

BELDEN, Capt. JOHN, was master of a schooner in the West Indies trade some 110 years ago. He can hardly have been that Capt. John Belden who was in Newbern, N. C. in 1804. Was he a son of Col. John?

BELDEN, RICHARD, gt-grandfather of Seabury, lived well out toward West Rocky Hill a little E. of home of heirs of Dea. Thomas Williams—only the cellar now remaining. He was a Revolutionary soldier.—R. W. G.

BELDEN, RICHARD, JR., son of above, lived in first house west of the Deac. Williams' house, on south side of road. Probably the builder of the ship *Huron*, 1804, the ship *Harry*, 1807 and sloop *Julia*, 1810; possibly of others.

BELDEN, SIMEON AND SON, of Weth., who in 1803, advertise "for sale, freight, or charter the fast sailing, well found and well accommodating Schr. *Marcus*, 900 tons burden, which will be ready for sea in ten days, if not sc'd." In the same year they advertise the "new and beautiful sloop *Mary*, Sam. Buck, Jr., Master, bound for Norfolk and Baltimore." He was part owner of the *Marcus*, and Unni Robbins and others were partners. If this was Simeon, Sen. he was son of Thomas, by his wife Mary (dau. of Rev. Stephen) Mix and he m. Martha (dau of Rev. James) Lockwood.

BELDEN, SIMEON, of the 3rd gen. from Richard, Sen., was a spar-maker; he learned to make blocks, pumps and spars of Joseph Neff, whose shop stood where Grant's coal yard now is. Soon after learning his trade, he m. a Miss Beckley and removed to Midd.

BELDEN, SEABURY, s. of Simeon and—(Beckley) was 2 yrs. old at time of his father's removal to Midd.; was a large ship builder; removed from Midd. to Hartford some 22 yrs. ago, but during res. at M. built no less than 45 vessels. At Htfd. at Dutch Point he built many vessels. About 13 yrs. ago he, with his son Eugene S. Belden, estab. a ship yard, a little north of Hog Brook, at Ry-Hill where the business of ship-building is still carried on by the 3rd and 5th gen. of ship-wrights in succession, and in the same, or nearly the same yards. Mr. Seabury Belden has built 87 vessels since he began the business. It may interest some to know that the past 40 yrs. has been a developmental period for timber-trees, and the Messrs. B. find ship-timber more abundant and cheaper now than it was 30 or 40 yrs. ago—owing to the introduction of coal-fuel and wire for fencing.  
[The above was written in 1887.—H. R. S.]

BELDEN, THOMAS, of Hartford in 1795, owner of sloop *Laura*; prob. son of Joseph, of Weth. who was b. 1733 and grad. Yale College; he also owned schr. *Swift*, in 1804; schr. *Leader*, in 1805; brig *Matilda*, 1806; ship *Bordeaux*,

1807. These four vessels were commanded respectively by Josiah Deming, John Hurlburt, Humphrey Woodhouse and John Hurlbut, all Weth. men, and the vessels were all in the foreign trade.

BELDEN, ELISHA, noted ship-wright (prob. related to the Richard above noted), builder of brig. *Mary*, 1805; schr. *Nancy*, 1807; brig. *Despatch*, 1808; schr. *Archer*, 1810. His yard was one of the two at Ry-Hill.

BELDEN, JAMES LOCKWOOD, merchant, part owner of the *Marcus*, 1804; s. of Simeon, Sen.; m. Julia, (dau. of Ezekiel Porter, Sen.) Belden. He was the founder of the seed culture in Weth.; lived in house next north of the office of *Weth. Weekly Farmer*; d. in New York, 1847. JAMES LOCKWOOD, Jr., s. above, was a sailor.

BENTON, GEORGE, (Capt.) was among the sea-faring men of Weth. about the close of the 18th century. Probably he was the "Mr. George Benton, Sen." who (as appears from the gravestone in Weth.) died at Martinique, W. I., in 1794.

There was another sea captain of the same name, at the same time, and probably a kinsman, living in Glastonbury.

BLINN, GEORGE, (Capt.) d. Cape St. Nicholas Mole, W. I. 1796, ae. 33.

BLINN, HOSEA, (Capt.) Jr? d. 1819, ae. 43. A Hosea Blinn, Jr. (prob. the same) in 1809 was master of brig. *Connecticut*, in foreign trade.

BLINN, WILLIAM, son of Hosea, above, d. at sea, 1847, ae. 37.

BLINN, JAMES, (Capt.) Sen. d. 1848, ae. 63; built (?) and res. in house occupied by the late Samuel Woodhouse, Esq., his son-in-law.

BLINN, JAMES, (Capt.) Jr., d. "of a Southern bilious fever," 1833, ae. 25. (All the above were in the foreign trade.)

BOARDMAN, ASHBEL, Capt., who was lost at sea, in 1823, at the age of 33, was a son of Capt. Jason, by his first wife, and a half brother of Luther Boardman, late of East Haddam. He was a grandson of the Capt. Jason lost at sea in 1780. Capt. Ashbel was at one time master of the schooner *Richmond* Packet (by his father), which ran between Rocky Hill and Richmond, with occasional trips to the West Indies. He is spoken of as a very smart and able young man.

BOARDMAN, BELDEN, (Capt.) }  
BOARDMAN, BUTLER, (Capt.) } See Note on their father Samuel, below.

BOARDMAN, CHARLES, (Capt.) s. of Timothy and Hannah (Crane), b. 1725; m. Abigail Stillman; prob. in W. I. trade and prob. owner, as well as master of his vessel. He d. 1793.

BOARDMAN, GEORGE, (Capt.) s. of Capt. Charles, m. Mary Hanmer and rem. to Schenectady, where he lived to near the age of 90. His son WILLIAM, b. 1756, lost at sea; ae. 19; another son CHARLES, b. 1761, lost at sea, 1780.



BOARDMAN, SAMUEL, (son of Cornet Joseph and Mary Belden), b. 4 Dec., 1744, the great merchant of Weth. m. Naomi (dau. of Samuel) Butler. Their son SAMUEL d. at sea, 1794, ae. 18. Another son, BUTLER, d. at sea, ae. 25—even at that age a captain; in 1803, he had a vessel in the Surinam port of Berbice; in 1804 he was in port of Newbern, N. C., whither he had sailed from New York. Another son BELDEN, was master of a vessel lying in port of New York, with cargo of onions, in 1791; in 1794 he was mate of a vessel (Richard Riley, master) from N. Y. to Newbern and New Providence. In 1797 master of the brig, *Mary*, running to Bilboa, owned by Capt. John Newson, of Weth. and Enoch Robbins of New York city; John Robbins, supercargo; freight dry and salted fish; return cargo, salt from Lisbon; in 1799, he was master of the schr. *William*, purchased expressly for him, in the Surinam trade; on the 16th of May, in that year, he sailed from N. Y., and nothing more was ever heard from ship or crew. In the month of March previous, he had written his father that he had lost most of his money by the failure of Messrs. Newson and Robbins.

BOARDMAN, JOSEPH SIMEON, s. of Levi and father of William, Esq., dec'd of Hartford; was not a mariner, but as supercargo, on slp. *Eliza*, was lost by shipwreck, in 1827, in Long Island Sound—all on board lost.

BOARDMAN, JONATHAN (Capt.), prob. s. of Jonathan and Mabel (*Holmes*), b. 1726; m. Martha Cole; master 1784, of schr. *Swan*, at Newburyport from Port au Prince.

"Last Saturday Capt. Jonathan Boardman in the Schooner *Swan*, from Port au Prince, arrived here, who informs us, that on the 6th inst. in Lat. 27 Long. 73 west he was brought to by a brig of about 120 tons burden, mounted with 8 carriage guns, who fired three shot at him and hailed in Spanish, to which Capt. Boardman, being unable to reply, asked if they had any on board who could speak English, on which a man told him in broken English that their Captain was coming on board the Schooner, and then they put their helm a starboard and tried to board the Schooner, but finding themselves disappointed by the Schooner's filling her foresail and hoisting her flying jib, they fired a shot which cut away some of the Schooner's rigging and went through the tack-piece of her foresail, and then asked Capt. Boardman what he was loaded with, who answered "*Molasses*," he then made a motion to have the Schooner go about her business. The brig, Capt. Boardman says appeared to have 25 to 30 men on board."—*Conn. Courant*, Dec. 7th, 1784.

[Boardman, Jonathan, lived in a house older than the present old Boardman house, and which was about ten rods north, on the same side of the road. He appears to have been the town pedagogue, at and for twenty years or more after, the building of the 1712 school-house, that stood on the side of the road, a few rods south of his, on the site where two other school buildings were erected. Capt. John lived in the north side of the present old Boardman house, his son, Jason, who died in 1844, lived in the same house; having, I suppose, added the north half to the other part. The old house, the home of Jonathan, must have been built some time before 1700. The master of the schooner *Walter*, if a Rocky Hill man, must have been Capt. Jason.—*R. W. G.*]

BOARDMAN, JASON, (s. of Capt. John), b. 1762, at age of 18, when his father was lost at sea, succeeded him on the old homestead, and as sailor and sea-capt., later became prominent as a ship-bldr. and owner. He was in W. I. trade; also had a packet-line from Conn. River to Richmond, Va., in

which his sons, Capt. Ashbel and Capt. John commanded as masters.—*Boardman Geneal.* Capt. John was for some time nominal master of the sloop *Julia* (also owned by his father), but he had not the capacity of Ashbel; and when at sea, took along a competent “nurse” as sailing-master; the real commander of the craft. He lived and died in the small house next south of where George Ryer kept hotel.

BOARDMAN, JOHN, (Capt.), gt-gd-son of Samuel, the Settler, and prob. first of the name to follow a seafaring life; b. 1729, at Rocky Hill; m. (1) Grace Riley; m. (2) Elizabeth Warner, left home 25 Sept., 1780, on a voyage and was lost, as was his son ASHBEL, b. 1767, on same vessel; another son, JASON, b. 1762, followed the seas for many years and then engaged in ship-building. Capt. John, the father, lived in the ancient and picturesque building next north of the school-ho. at Ry-Hill, since demolished. Capt. JASON, b. 1762, also lived there; he d. 1803; he was prob. Capt. of the schr. *Walter*, in W. I. trade in 1803. Capt. DANIEL, another son of Capt. John, b. 1771, lived in house now occupied by Benjamin G. Webb. FREDERICK, a fourth s., b. 1765, mate of a vessel owned by his father.—*Boardman Genealogy.*

BOARDMAN, LUTHER, was, with Geo. and Nathaniel Griswold, in 1804, owner of the ship *Eliza Ann*.

BOARDMAN, TIMOTHY, of Midd., (son of Tim. of Weth., and gd-son of Timothy and Hannah *Crane* Boardman, both of Weth.), b. 1754, was ae. abt. 23 when he became one of the crew of the Conn. armed cruiser *Oliver Cromwell*; and as keeper of the ship's log, recorded what was prob. the most accurate account given of the engagement of that vessel with the Br. man-of-war *Admiral Keppel*, near St. Christopher, W. I., which resulted in the capture of the latter.

BOWERS, EPHRAIM, built the sch. *Sally*, at Weth., 1810.

BRADFORD, (Capt.) William, as early as 1769, part owner of several vessels at Rky-H., where he prob. res.

BUCK, CHARLES, one of the owners of slp. *Eliza*, 1805; associated with Gordon and Daniel Buck, Jr., the former of N. Y., but all prob. of Weth. origin.

BUCK, DANIEL, 2d (called, 1805, D. Jr.), s. of Daniel and Elizabeth (*Williams*) Buck, and father of Daniel B., 3d, now res. in California; he m. Elizabeth (dau. Ezekiel Porter) Belden, who d. in Weth., æt. 103. See *Fam.* 8, *Buck Gen.*

NOTE.—Daniel, Jr. must have been the s. of that Daniel, who abt. 1787, built the house now occupied by Henry Buck, on N. cor. Jordan Lane and Htfd. Ave.; he was father of Daniel Buck, 3d, (now living) in San Francisco. About the same time, 1787, Josiah Buck (bro. of first Daniel) built the ho. now occupied by Edward Buck, nearly opp. to that built by Daniel. Josiah Buck was prob. not a sea-captain.

BUCK BROS. (GURDON AND DANIEL, JR.?), were, in 1843, engaged in a large transportation business, mainly between Hartford and New York City, Albany and Philadelphia. In that yr. they, with Chas. T. and George Deming,

David Clark, Roderick Terry, Albert Francis and poss. others, built the steam-schrs. *Lion* at New Haven, the *Seneca* and *Uncas* at New York, and estab. "Buck's Transportation Line" between Htfd. and N. Y. These vessels, commonly called "propellers," registered a little less than 200 tons burden. Albert Francis commanded the *Seneca*, Chas. T. Deming the *Lion*, and Geo. Deming the *Uncas*; being succeeded, 1845, by Daniel A. Mills. If the Demings were of Weth., it will be seen that the old town was a prominent factor in the history of this fleet. In 1844, another vessel, the *Sachem*, was added, of which Geo. Deming became master. In 1847, the *Osceola* was added, under Capt. Mills as master. The Captains of these vessels were chosen from the "packet-schooners" and sloops, whose "line trips" were broken up by the advent of these steam propellers, which in turn, gave way to the larger and more convenient steamboats; and these finally were largely superseded by swifter railway trains.

BUCK, DUDLEY, bro. of above Daniel, res. in Htfd., and they were the owners of vessels almost too numerous to mention. He was the father of the famous musical composer, Dudley Buck, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

BUCK, JOSIAH (Capt.), d. 1807, ae. 66; shipmaster (*Am. Mercury*, 1803), had schr. *Buck* at St. Kitts, W. I.; may have been the one meant as J., Jr., as in the foreign trade 1804, and of slp. *Mary*, 1805; m. Hannah (sister of Hon. Silas) Deane.

BUCK, HENRY, d. at Port au Prince, San Domingo, 1815, ae. 29.—*Weth. Ins.*

BUCK, SAMUEL, Sen., (Capt.), died abt. 1821.

BUCK, SAMUEL, Jr., (Capt.), father, I think, of wid. of late Alfred Francis, Esq.; in 1803, master of "the new and beautiful" packet slp. *Martha*, plying betw. Weth. and Norfolk, Va. and Baltimore, Md. *Am. Mercury*, Nov. 17, 1803; prob. the same, who was mate (1794) of schr. *Betsey*, Capt. Fr. Bulkeley, from Ry-H.

BULKELEY, ALLEN, (bro. of Stephen, Jr.), b. 1786; in 1817, pt. owner of slp. *James*; in 1832, he and Steph. B. and Alijah Collins, owned slp. *Orbit*, of which Steph. was mstr.

BULKELEY, CHARLES, Sen., if not himself a mariner, was the father of an active brotherhood of sailors.

BULKELEY, CHARLES, Jr., ment. as being at sea, 1790; d. W. I., 1799, ae. 38.—*Weth. Ins.* s. of Capt. Chas. and Mary Griswold; he m. Eunice Robbins.

There was another Charles, who came to Weth. from Colchester and m. Prudence (wid. of Maj. Edward) Bulkeley—by whom he had 2 ch., one son *John*, who m. a wid. Dix and rem. to Wolcott Hill, Weth. It does not appear that he was a mariner.

BULKELEY, DAVID, (Capt.), s. of Gershom and Abigail (Robbins) Bulkeley; d. 1810, ae. 66; may have been a sea-captain, but more prob. was the Revolutionary cavalry officer.

BULKELEY, EDWARD, (Capt.), (s. of Chas. and bro. of Capts. John and Prescott, of Weth.), was one of the most skilful navigators of his day, if we may judge from his log-book; was a W. I. trader, carrying horses and cattle mostly, a very perilous trade at that time, in the slp. *Fair-Trader*; in 1785-6, the *Pamelia*, prob. named after his dau. In 1768, he commanded the he m. (1) Rachel (dau. Oliver) Pomeroy; m. (2) Prudence Welles, both of Weth; he d. 1787, ae. 46; bu. at Ry-H. From his tombstone, he appears to have held the mil. title of Major. He res. in the long (brick) house near The Landing built by Pomeroy, afterwards occup. by Abijah Collins. His wid. m. (2) Capt. Charles Bulkeley, from Colchester.

BULKELEY, EDWARD, (s. of Charles, and bro. of Capts. Edward and Prescott), m. Honor Francis and raised a large family, of whom some were sailors. He d. 1807, ae. 82; in 1818 was associated with Joseph Bulkeley and Richard Grimes, in the slp. *Eagle*.

(It is somewhat difficult to distinguish one Edward from another. No less than *eleven* of this name are ment. in Rev. F. W. Chapman's *Mss.* genealogy of this family, and he did not get all of them. Also, between the *Edmonds* of this family there is much room for confusion.)

BULKELEY, EDWARD, (Capt.), (s. of Capt. John), b. 1767, m. Eunice Bunce, of Weth.; d. 1805, ae. 38; left several ch. among whom was John Bunce Bulkeley, who d. at Port au Prince, 1822, ae. 25; this Edward may have been the E., who owned one-third of schr. *Betsy and Mary*, 1800.

BULKELEY, EDMOND, s. of Joseph, b. 1787; m. Nancy (dau. Justus) Robbins; was part owner of slp. *Hope*, 1818; and, 1819, with his bros. Henry and Asahel and Jason Boardman, owned pkt. schr. *Richmond*; in 1821, with Rich. Robbins, Moses Dimock and Luther Goodrich owned slp. *Nancy*; and with Steph. and Allen Bulkeley, the slp. *Dean*; failed in bus., drifted to N. Orleans, where he d. in penury; wife d. in N. Y.

BULKELEY, EDMOND, (Capt.), (s. of Jonathan and bro. of Capt. Jonathan), m. Prudence (dau. Col. Elias) Williams; res. on main road, at Ry-H., nearly opp. the Joseph Bulkeley place.—*Chas. Williams*.

BULKELEY, FRANCIS, (Capt.), (s. of Capt. John), b. 1757, was a somewhat noted navigator, mstr. of schr. *Betsey*, sailing from Ry-H., 1799; prob. owner and mstr. of brig *Fortune* (Sam. Buck, 24 mate), capt. by the French on voyage to Barbadoes, 1800, John Morgan and John Caldwell, of Htfd., owners of cargo. Capt. Fr. B. m. (1) Rhoda (dau. Capt. Elisha) Griswold; m. (2) Elizabeth (dau. Ezek'l) Fosdick; res. in ho. next N. of High St. School-ho.; and he d. 1803, on brig *Ontario*, Capt. Tim. Stillman, mstr. His s. William d. on same vessel, in 1802, ae. 21.

BULKELEY, FRANCIS, (Capt.), s. Capt. Francis, d. at sea on board brig *Regent*, off Cape Trafalgar, in 1817, ae. 29.

BULKELEY, GERSHOM, (s. Hosea and Abigail *Griswold*), b. 1789, m. Laura Goodrich; was in shipping bus. with his father, who was a sea-captain.



- BULKELEY, HOSEA, (Capt.), of Step., father of above Gershom; the Custom Ho. recs. show him to have been mstr. of ship *Enterprise*, 1810; he m. Abigail Griswold; he d. 1838, ae. 82; res. in ho. once the Butler tavern, now occup. by Jos. Halligan.
- BULKELEY, JAMES HENRY, s. of Capt. Francis, by his 2d wife, Elizabeth Goodrich; b. 1834; rem. to Phila.; had s. James Hy., a paymaster in U. S. N. during the Civil War, and who was present at attack on Ft. Fisher, Ft. Hatteras and elsewhere and remained at sea until his dth., 1873.
- BULKELEY, JOSEPH, evidently a leading ship-owner; as early as 1804, he, with Jason Boardman, were owners of sch. *Walter*, in foreign trade; and in same yr. Rich. Belden built for him the ship *Huron*. In 1805, he owned brig *Mary*, blt. by Elisha Belden, Jr.; in 1809, he owned the *Dispatch*, blt. by same Belden; in 1810, the sch. *Archer*—all eng. in foreign trade. He was father of Henry and Walter W. Bulkeley, and, if so, b. 1742; was very prominent in civil affairs and offices of Stepney.
- BULKELEY, HENRY and WALTER W., sons of Joseph (above) and Mary Williams, of Ry-H.; b. 1793 and 1797. Henry m. Martha Tucker, and Walter W. m. Lucy Robbins. The bros. did a large shipping business and were part owners of quite a number of vessels. W. W. d. from exposure at time of the burning of the Steamboat *Pennsylvania*, March, 1834, in Delaware River, on which he was a passenger; his wife (dau. of Levi Robbins) lived until 1860; he was for some time Town Clerk of Ry-H.
- BULKELEY, JONATHAN, Capt. mstr., 1795, of slp. *Emily*, belonging to himself and Ackley Riley; in 1799, had slp. *Sally*, owned by said Ackley R. and Levi Edwards; in 1804, mstr. of slp. *Allen*, owned by Jas. Fortune and Levi Butler; was prob. the Jona. who (b. 1750) m. Mary Edwards; res. at Dividend, where he d. 1836; at one time peddled gds. in the South.
- BULKELEY, OLIVER, (s. Peter and Abigail *Curtiss* and gd-s. of Edward and Dorothy B.), b. 1744; d. at sea, 1776.
- BULKELEY, PETER, (s. Rev. Gershom), b. 1664, lost at sea, ae. 37; m. Rachel (dau. Capt. Samuel) Talcott.
- BULKELEY, PRESCOTT, (bro. of Cpts. Edward and John, above), was, in 1768, with Stephen Bulkeley, of the crew (poss. passengers) of the *Fair Trader*. His vessels ran to the W. I.; and at the ports of Nevis, St. Eustatia, Antigua and Martinico, one was almost sure to find some vessel commanded by one or the other of these bros. He m. Lois Williams, of Ry-H. (?), 1774, and d. 1791, ae. 47; bu. at Ry-H.
- BULKELEY, RALPH, (s. of Joseph and Elizabeth, above), in 1807, pt. owner of slp. *Jack*; 1809, owned slp. *Prudence* and apparently then res. in N. Y.; in 1810, was associated with Abijah Collins, Hosea Bulkeley and Joseph Neff, all of Ry-H., as owner of the ship *Enterprise*, built at Weth. that yr. for the for. trade.
- BULKELEY, SIMON, (s. Capt. Prescott), b. 1774; d. in W. I., unm'd, ae. 18.

BULKELEY, STEPHEN, (Capt.), res. at Dividend, N. of the mill; d. 1813, ae. 64; not ment. in *B. Geneal.* by title.

BULKELEY, STEPHEN, Jr., (s. Stephen and Martha Marsh), b. 1783; mstr. slp. *Allen*, 1805; of slp. *James*, 1815; of slp. *Dean*, 1817; as late as 1840, with Wait and Gershom Bulkeley, owned schr. *George*; res. at Dividend and d. 1865.

BULKELEY, WAIT, (half bro. of Stephen, Jr., and Allen), pt. owner of schr. *George*; d. 1807.

BULKELEY, WILLIAM, A *Mss.* Bulkeley Genealogy by Rev. F. W. Chapman, ment. *two* Williams, *both* "washed overboard and dr.," July 23, 1788, one said to have been a s. of Capt. Edward B., b. 1773, which would make him, ae. 15 yrs. The other a s. of Gershom B., b. 1754. The latter appears to have belonged to Ry-Hill. But I think his father was not Edward or Gershom, but Capt. John.

A correction, furnished to *S. W. A.* by XXX, "a descendant of the Bulkeley and Belden families," says he was son of Gershom and Thankful B.; and that his father built for him the ho. just S. of the South School House in Ry-Hill, and now occup. by William Bulkley Boardman. He m. Mabel Wilcox (of present Cromwell), and after his death, she m. Wait Robbins, Jr.

BUNCE, HEMAN, of Weth., mtsr. of schr. *Milo*, 1823, owned by Dennison, Morgan & Co., Htfd.

BUNCE, JARED, Capt., whose mother was a Stanley; he was b. 1759; died 1823; was prob. in Charleston, S. C., trade, where and also in Phila., he res. for some yrs.. A dau. of his was wife of Rev. Alfred Wright, missionary to the Choctaw Indians; adv. to sail in schr. *Sally*, Oct. 20, 1803.—*Am. Mercury*. See, also, *Bunce Geneal.*, in our 2d Vol.

BUNCE, JONATHAN, prob. a sea-captain, before he became a wharf-master.

BUNCE, RICHARD, Capt., in Nov., 1804, sailed from New London in the Htfd. schr. *Ann*; in W. I. waters his vessel was seized by a Br. brig, two of his crew impressed and the vessel sent to Antigua as a prize.—See *American Mercury*, for a letter dated of 26 Feb., 1805, by him, narrating above facts.

BUNCE, THOMAS, Jr., Capt., master of sloops *Betsy*, *Edward*, *Branch* and *Nancy*, and of schr. *Lucy*, in periods between 1797 and 1823; also, a part owner in some other vessels.

BURNHAM, JOHN, Capt., (son of Capt. Peter), a noted navigator in his day; b. 1758; served in Continental Army, 1777; later was in Capt. Chas. Butler's privateer; also capt. of slp. *Camilla*, in 1792, mstr. of ship *Hope*, in N. Y., and European trade; capt. by Algerian corsairs and made a slave to the Dey of Algiers; was ransomed for \$4,000 by the British Consul and through his efforts, aided by Col. David Humphreys, then U. S. Minister to Portugal, Congress provided for the ransom of his crew at \$2,000 apiece. In 1796, he was mstr. of Baltimore ship *Carrollton*, built under his supervision at Chatham, Conn., and was in Balt. and Eng. trade.

Abt. this time, 1798, he m. a Colchester lady, and settled on the old homestead at Weth.; in 1802, rem. to Auburn, N. Y., d. at dau.'s res. Buffalo, N. Y., 1837. Stuart (Washington's artist) painted his portrait.

BURNHAM, PETER, Capt., b. 1723, commanded (among others) *Dolphin* in W. I. trade; res. in ho. on site of former Lyon House, N. side.

BUTLER, BENJAMIN, (Stepney), with Jason Boardman, owned brigantine *Hiram*, 1795; also, slp. *Two Brothers* and schrs. *Betsy* and *Nancy*, 1797; owner of slp. *Allen*, 1803; owner of schr. *Kitty*.

BUTLER, ELISHA, rem. from Weth. to Ry-H. abt. 1671; his desc. numerous; his ho-std. next to the Midd. line, on E. side of road to M. line Capt. Elisha, who d. at Ry-H., 1783, ae. 34, was as Dr. Griswold thought a military captain; but says there was an Elisha B. from here who d. at sea in 1799.

BUTLER, GEORGE, (Capt.), s. of Capt. Samuel, in 1780, obt. special permit from Gen. Assemb. to ship corn to Bermuda, and bring back salt as a return cargo. In 1803, he commanded brig. *Peggy*.

BUTLER, HENRY, sailed the slp. *Ann*, 1798.

BUTLER, JAMES, in 1804, mstr. of Justus Riley's slps. *Nancy* and *Susan*; in 1806, ran the brig. *Betsy* for the bros. Timothy and Josiah Savage, built at Weth., 1799—both vessels in the W. I. trade.

BUTLER, JASON, (s. of Benjamin), d. at sea, ae. 23, 1800.

BUTLER, JOSEPH, (Capt.), d. Ry-H., 1826, ae. 50; in 1806, was mstr. (succeeding Jason Boardman) of Joseph Bulkeley's brig *Mary*, built by Elisha Belden, Jr.; in 1807; he was Capt. of new ship *Henry*, blt. by Rich. Belden, for Joseph Bulkeley; in 1809, mstr. of another of J. B.'s vessels, the brig *Dispatch*, built by Elisha Belden, in 1808; in 1816, mstr. of schr. *Archer*, built and owned by same parties—all in the foreign trade; he res. in ho. now occup. by Mrs. Lucy (?) Smith.

BUTLER, JOSIAH, Dr. R. W. Griswold says a Capt. of this name (supp. to be a sea-Capt.), once res. on E. side of road, opp. Ry-H. meeting-ho., perhaps the Capt. B., who, in 1803, was mate of brig *Peggy*, then at Port of St. Kitts.

BUTLER, LEVI, (with Elisha Seymour), owned slp. *Polly*, 1798, and in 1803, he and James Fortune bo't the slp. *Allen*.

CHURCHILL, SAMUEL, pt. owner of slp. *James*, and perhaps other vessels, in 1794, in coasting trade.

CHURCHILL, JOSEPH, both mstr. and owner of slp. *Delight*, 1803, in coasting trade.

CHESTER, LEONARD, Jr., Capt., b. 1777, was lost at sea. We think that his father, who m. a dau. of Col. Wm. Williams, of Pittsfield, Mass., and d. 1803, was also a sea-captain. Certain he was engaged in foreign trade.

CHESTER, JOHN NOYES, Capt., (a bro. of above), b. 1783, was also lost at sea. Both these Chesters were gd-sons of the first Col. John, and nephews of the second Col. John Chester. See Caulkins *Hist. N. London*, p. 235.

CLAPP, ELIJAH, Capt. mstr. slps. *Factor* and *Betsy*, abt. 1796; prob. res. Htfd.

CLAPP, JOHN, Capt., (nephew of above), m. Mary Kilby (prob. dau. Capt. Thomas K.), left 8 ch.; Daniel, the youngest m. Elizabeth Beadle, and was father of Col. John B. Clapp, of Htfd., Capt. John d. 1822, mstr. of brig *Lucy*, 1799.

CLAPP, NORMAN, Capt., (father of Capt. John), res. in Weth.; in 1798, was mstr. of slp. *Betsy & William*; 1806, of schr. *Hope*, in W. I. trade; he m. (1) Huldah Wright; m. (2) Mary F. Wright.

CLAPP, NORMAN, Jr., (bro. Capt. John), had the slp. *Friendship*, 1815.

CLAPP, ROSWELL, Capt., mstr. slp. *Allen*, 1806.

COOMBS, SOLOMON, W., mstr. of schr. *Marcus*, 1804, in foreign trade, owned by Unni Robbins, Simeon and James L. Belden. He may have been son of Andrew, who d. 1796, ae. 82.

COLLINS, ABIAH, one of the most enterprising ship owners of Stepney; had a store at The Landing, will remembered by many; in 1804, he, with Jason Robbins, owned the schr. *Regulator*; he was pt. owner of schr. *Friendship*, 1805; in 1810, pt. owner of ship *Enterprise*; in 1815, of the slps. *Julia* and *James*; in 1823, of slp. *Leader*; in 1826, of slps. *Flash* and *Falcon*; in 1827, sole owner of slp. *Martha*; in 1828, pt. owner of slp. *Pearl*; 1832, of slp. *Orbit* and schr. *Avon*; 1835, of schr. *Frances Tryon*; 1839, of schr. *Exchange*. He was prob. a descendant of Rev. Nath'l Collins, first minister at Midd., or else of Sam Collins. Sam. Collins, Jr., seems to have been first of the name in Weth., where he rem. from Midd., where he was b. 1668.

COLLINS, FREEMAN, in 1804, mstr. of brig. *Betsy*, built at Weth., 1799, Josiah and Timothy Savage, owners.

CRANE, CHARLES, mstr. slp. *Merino*, 1812.

CRANE, GEORGE, Capt., (prob. desc. of Benjamin, the Settler, 1657), mstr. of vessels in W. I. trade. It is told of him that being required by the regulations of a Spanish sea-port, to spend the money received for his cargo in that port, he evaded the law by secreting the coin in the squashes or "calabashes," bought from the natives, and getting them on board his vessel with other market produce. He also held the military rank of Captain and removed to Sheffield, Mass.

CRANE, THOMAS, res. in house which stood where Robbin R. Wolcott's ho. now stands and which was burned 1805; he was a very capable and much respected sea-captain; his descendants are to be found in Auburn, N. Y.

CURTIS, ———, a Captain of this family, (perhaps the Josiah who d. at Ry-H., 1832, ae. 88), was mstr. of slp. in W. I. trade, 1793; he may have been the Capt. of ship *Mary*, taken by the French, 1798.



CURTIS, HON. JOHN, of Weth., though a distinguished lawyer in his day, abandoned his profession to become the Secretary of the New London Society, United for Trade and Commerce—prob. the first Company ever incorporated in Conn. Colony for business purposes, in 1732. Its principal business was shipping and whaling; the latter industry may be said to have begun with this company. The corporation however, became early involved in serious losses by which Mr. C. was bankrupted. Meanwhile, he had become a resident of New London. The General Assembly, apprehending that it might have exceeded its own powers, repealed the act of incorporation, holding that the Crown alone had the right to exercise such powers. See Caulkins' *Hist. N. London.* p. 243.

DEANE, BARNABAS, Capt., (bro. of Silas), not only a sea-captain; but an owner of vessels during the Revol. war—at which time he was one of a secret mercantile co-partnership, of which the other members were Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth, Gen. Nathaniel Greene of R. I., and, it is believed, Gov. Trumbull of Conn., the original "Brother Jonathan." In 1870, Deane was partner with John Wright, Justus Riley and William Griswold—all sea-captains—in shipbuilding at Weth. and Ry-H. After the Revol. he rem. to Htfd.; he gave his ho. there (once occupied by Nelson Hollister, in Grove St.) to his nephew Jesse (s. of his bro. Silas). This neph. left a dau., who m. Horatio Alden, the father of Deane Alden. Hannah Deane, sister of Barnabas and Silas, m. Capt. Josiah Buck, of Weth.

DEANE, BARZILLAI, (bro. of Capt. Barnabas and Silas),, supposed to have been a sea-captain, d. 1788, and was bu. at Weth.

DEANE, JOHN, (bro. of Capt. Barnabas and Silas), d. at sea, 1798; prob. a sea-captain. See also *Deane Geneal.*, Vol. II.

DEMING, ALLYN, S., d. New Orleans, La., 1821, ae. 27; prob. sailor; allied to the Stillmans, and bu. by side of Capt. Lemuel Deming, in Weth. bu. yd.

DEMING, ASA, pt. owner of schr. *Industry*, 1795; in 1797, he, with Philo Goodrich, owned slp. *Charlotte*.

DEMING, ASHBEL, had schr. *Venus*, 1807, owned in Midd.—foreign trade.

DEMING, ASHBEL, had the *Julia*, blt. at Ry-H., for Jason and Hosea Bulkeley and others—foreign trade.

DEMING, DANIEL, of Rocky-H., d. at sea, Apl. 23, 1748, ae. 29.

DEMING, JESSE, prob. the same whose ho. stood nearly opp. the Chas. Francis' ho.; mstr. sloop *Fame*, 1805; poss. not of Weth.

DEMING, JOHN and CHAUNCEY, 1804, and others, owned schr. *Nancy & Catherine*.

DEMING, JOSIAH, Capt., (father of Capt. Daniel,) who d. 1805, ae. 46). Custom House records show that Josiah was mstr. of slp. *Lora*, 1795, owned by Thos. Belden of Htfd., and Jacob Williams of Weth.; also schr. *Prudence*,

owned in Chatham, 1797; slp. *Jay*, 1798; slp. *Polly*, owned by Elisha Seymour and Levi Butler, both of Weth. 1798; slp. *Eliza*, owned by Caleb and James Griswold, 1804; all in coasting trade. In 1804, he became mstr. of schr. *Swift*, in for. trade, owned by Thos. Belden, of Htfd.

DEMING, JOSEPH, Capt., died on passage from Savannah, Ga., 1805, ae. 46; son of Josiah, (son of Josiah) and wife Susanna.

DEMING, GEORGE and LEMUEL, bros. of New Haven, prob. brought up in Weth., owned schr. *Victory*.

DEMING, LEMUEL, Capt., in 1772, capt. of vessel to N. Y. City; d. 1790, ae. 55; was soldier in Revol. Army, 1777; and son of Lemuel, Sen., who was son of Jacob, who m. Elizabeth Edwards, of the Jonathan Edward's family.

DEMING, POWNELL, Capt., of Weth., m. Abigail (dau. of Eleazer) Hubbell, of New Fairfield, d. 1783.

DICKINSON, ASHBEL, Capt., d. 1825, ae. 50; sea-captain.

DICKINSON, ROCKWELL, (bro. of above) d. at sea, 1824, ae. 22.

DICKINSON, SETH, ran the *Hornet*, 1811.

DICKINSON, WILLIAM, (son of Harvey and Hannah) lost at sea, 1823, ae. 19.

DIMOCK, DAVIS, Capt. mstr. of many vessels in W. I. trade; had schr. *Chance*, as early as 1797; d. at E. Haddam, Ct., 1798 of yellow fever contracted in W. I.

DIMOCK, JOSEPH, JR., Capt., a prominent sea captain; son of Joseph, Sen., earliest of the D family in Weth.; res. and prob. was born in Ry.-Hill; supposed to be a desc. of Joseph, of Barnstable, Mass., and a ship builder by trade; later in life rem. to Granville, N. Y., where he d. ae. 89; his wife was a Williams and d. 1807, ae. 71. Another JOSEPH, JR., Capt., was drowned at Bermuda, 1819, ae. 49, leaving wid., Sarah (Warner) and 11 ch.; his oldest son Moses lost at sea, 1812, ae. 22, single; another son WILLIAM DAVIS, lost at sea in same yr. ae. 19, being at this early age mate of a ship, and was seized by French privateer, and with his crew paroled, was passenger on a vessel returning from France, when the vessel was lost—only one person being saved. Capt. Joseph D. Jr., was mastr. of slps. *Jack* and *Ursula*; schrs. *Peggy* and *Hope*, and brigs *William* and *Sampson*, all in the foreign trade and hailing from Conn. River; also, 1810, of slp. *Merino*.

DIMOCK, SAMUEL, (son of Capt. Joseph, and bro. of Capt. Davis,) a leading ship-builder at Ry.-Hill; also mariner; master 1804, of schr. *Mariner*; owner between 1803 and '4 of schrs. *Mariner* and *Victory* and of brigs *Eunice* and *Halkar*, all in foreign trade. Custom Ho. recs. mention following vessels built by him: slp. *Mary*, 1803, brig *Eunice*, 1805; schr. *Victory*, 1806; brig *Wanderer*, 1810.

DIX, JACOB, pt-owner, 1805, of slp. *Juno*; he must have been the father of the late Roswell Dix, and gd.-father of Jacob Dix, now of Newington. His wife was a sister of the late Samuel Hanmer and he resided at lower end of Wolcott Hill. The Dixes are descendants of Leonard, the settler of 1645.

DUDLEY, CHAUNCEY, Capt. (prob. of Midd.) built part of the last vessel launched at Ry.-Hill, before the coming thither of Seabury and Eugene S. Belden; built the brig *Energy*.

DUNN, RICHARD, Capt., d. Ry.-Hill, 1791, ae. 69; his dau. Mary m. 1769, Alexander Grimes. *Dunn* is not a Ry.-Hill name, but there is record of a Dunn dying here at an early date; and Capt. Richard may have belonged here in early life. He came to Ry.-Hill, however, later in life, from Newport, had lost a fortune, which, it is understood, he had made in the slave trade, bringing negroes from Africa to the W. I.—a business not disreputable in his day. New Eng. vessels carried thousands of blacks from the free barbarism of Africa to the free barbarism of Am. slavery. But, by the time of Capt. Dunn's death, people were beginning to view this traffic differently.

EDWARDS, JOSEPH, of Weth., according to official register, mstr. of slp. *Delight*, 1795.

EDWARDS, LEVI, of Weth., accor. to same authority, mas. of schr. *Lively*, 1796.

The above prob. descendants of John Edwards, the settler, who res. S. W. side Broad St., 1636, and m. (as 2d wife) wid. of Abraham Finch, Jr., killed by Indians in the massacre at Weth. His desc. have been more numerous in Glast. and Ry.-Hill, than in the older township.

FLOWER, ARTEMAS, master slp. *Miller*, 1808.

FORTUNE, LUKE, Capt., d. 1827, ae. 75. In June, 1784 he, with Justus Riley adv'd. for horses, 4 to 6 yrs. old, which they wanted for export, in exchange for "good English rum, or other W. I. goods," and (as pr. newspaper of July 9th, same year) he sailed from N. Lond. on slp. *Industry*, for W. I. See also *ante* p.

FORTUNE, JAMES, prob. son of above; res. in ho. on site now occupied by the late John Amidon.

FRANCIS, ALBERT, in 1834, was master of schr. *Triton*, owned by Daniel and Dudley Buck and himself—all Weth. men, tho' all resided in Htfd., and extensive ship owners and shippers.—See *Buck*.

FRANCIS, CHARLES, Capt. in 1805, master of Justus Riley's slp. *Nancy* and *Susan*; 1806, of brig. *Perseverance*, also, Riley's and master of same in 1809; all in for. trade; in 1815 master and pt. owner of new slp. *Henry*, owned by Caleb Griswold, Lydia Olmsted and Anson G. Phelps; he was a son of the first Charles and m. Sarah (dau. of Camp. and Mehitable *Baxter* Adams. He left but one son, Charles 3rd, who m. Emily Blinn and d. few yrs. since, his ho. being next N. of Gen. Leonard R. Welles'.

FOX, HIRAM, in 1820, had schr. *Laura* built at Glast. that yr. for Sol. Porter, Jr., of Htfd. and Jesse Goodrich of Weth., his wife Sally bu. at Weth., 1823, ae. 22.

FRANCIS, DANIEL, Capt., b. 1770, m. Mehitable (dau. Capt. Elizur) Goodrich; abt. 1803, built and occup. brick ho. on High St., now res. of C. E. Dow, and d. 1837, ae. 66; was master of brig *Eliza*, captured by two Fr. privateers, Jan. 16, 1797. She was built in Mass., registered 92 tons, and sailed for W. I. Dec., 1796, with cargo of cattle, corn, salt beef etc., mostly the property of Nath'l Eaton; vessel belonged to two N. Y. mchts. and was valued at \$4,000 in Guadeloupe; cargo valued at \$7,108, and Capt. F's. personal loss was \$825.75. He was master of slp. *Lucy*, plying between Htfd., N. Y. and Phila., 1810-1818; mostly freighted for Elisha Shepard & Sons, Htfd.

FRANCIS, DAVID, Capt., (prob. son of Timothy and Elizabeth Hanmer), b. 1772; m. and sett. at Charleston, S. C., where he d. 1801; master of sehr. *Wilmington Packet*, to southern ports, 1796.

FRANCIS, JAMES B., (bro. of Albert) was master of slp. *Branch*, in 1823, or earlier; 1833, of sehr. *Jane*, built at Glast. that year—and owned by Daniel and Dudley Buck.

FRANCIS, JOHN, Capt., (son of John and 4th lineal descendant of that name), b. 1767; m. Huldah Bulkeley. It was prob. he who, with Eunice Montague, was owner of the slp. *Ralph*, cap'd by the Fr. in 1800, Capt. Moses Montague being, at the time, her captain. In 1812, Capt. Francis was of the slp. *Dove*, plying from Htfd. to N. Y. and Phila., and mostly in the employ of John Morgan, of Htfd. He d. at age of 68, in 1835.\*

FRANCIS, JOHN N., (Capt.), b. 1817, son of Capt. Daniel above; m. Emeline (dau. Hosea) Harris; was, for many years, master of Brig *Scotland*, plying betw. Htfd. and Porto Rico, and other W. I. Islands; vessel owned by Elisha T. Smith & Co., of Htfd. After making 40 or 50 trips for this firm, she was sold, and lost on the second trip thereafter. Capt. F. then became mstr. of the Brig *Suwanee*, owned by same firm and d. of yellow fever on a trip to Panama and was buried near Carthagen, New Granada, June, 1867; the work of burial being performed by natives. It is related of Capt. F. that once, while off Cape Hatteras, his vessel, the *J. L. Forbes*, collided with another, which held alongside in a trough of the sea, and that he had barely time to leap on board the other vessel, with his wife, when his own vessel went down. The *Suwanee* was prob. the last square-rigged vessel that ever ascended the Conn. River to Htfd.—this must have been 30 yr., or more, ago.

GOFFE, GIDEON, Sen., ("Capt.") a master-rigger in shipyard; d. 1849, ae. 88; res. So. Weth., near res. of the late Russell Adams.

GOFFE, GIDEON, Jr., seaman, lost at sea, 1823, ae. 26, as per tombstone at Ry-H.

GOODRICH, (besides the G's of Ry-Hill, there was in Weth. proper, a long list of names—also engaged in maritime pursuits), ALLEN, son of Nath'l and wife Mary Wright, d. at Martinico, W. I., 1802, ae. 17—prob. a sailor before the mast.

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\* Capt. James, William, Stephen and Albert Francis were all sons of Capt. John and wife Huldah; engaged in river and coasting trade only. Some members of this family (among them, Joseph, Timothy and Herman, sons of Robert) eng. in bus. in the Southern States and d. there; as did David, son of Timothy and Pamela (Welles) Francis; but whether any were mariners, we know not.



GOODRICH, ARTHUR, (Capt.), of Rocky Hill.

GOODRICH, BARZILAI, (Capt.), son of Capt. Oliver, and prob. of Stepney; mstr. of Joseph Bulkeley's ship *Huron*, 1804; in 1805, of schr. *Leander*, owned by Jared Spencer and others, of Saybrook, Ct.; in 1806, was owner and mstr. of ship *Brutus*, built that yr. at Weth. (Stepney?) by Hez. Whitmore, all these in the foreign trade; in 1827, he had Abijah Collins' slp. *Martha*; in 1830, the Midd. Schr. *Caret*. He m. a dau. of Dr. Aaron Hosford and res. in home built by the latter, and now used by the Beaumonts. After Dr. H. died, Capt. G. res. in the new home.

GOODRICH, DANIEL, (Capt.), 1804, of schr. *Catharine*, owned by Ezekiel Williams, Jr., and others, in for. trade. Poss. a son of the Daniel mentioned in connection with Capt. Josiah, as son of Daniel and Jerusha. If so, he d. 1825, ae. not far from 50 yrs. Daniel. Sen., d. 1786, ae. 40 yrs.

GOODRICH, ELIZUR, Capt., b. 1730, (son of Hezekiah and Honor *Deming*), was in the W. I., trade prior to Revolution; he m. Abigail (dau. David) Deming and built the ho. lately occup. by Cath. Brigden; in 1793, he was mstr. of slp. *Honor*, in Kennebec River, for New Lond. It is said that he contributed lead (sash weights) from his ho. to be cast into bullets for the army at Boston, in 1775. He d. 1785; at which time he was pt. owner of the slp. *Sally* and prob. of others. He was nephew of Col. Elizur Goodrich, of Fr. and Ind. wars notoriety.

GOODRICH, ELI, Capt., mstr. and pt. owner of slp. *Vermont*, 1796; in 1798, of schr. *Debe* (?), Capt. Wm. Griswold, owner.

GOODRICH, ELIZUR, (son of above), lost at sea, ae. 23, sailor.

GOODRICH, EPHRAIM, Capt., (son of William, the Settler), rem. to Ry-H.; a military captain; d. 1739, ae. 74. By 1st wife, Sarah Treat, had son by his 2d wife (Jerusha, wid. of Capt. Thomas Welles and dau. of Capt. James Wright of Weth.), Capt. Ephraim had another son,

GOODRICH, GIDEON, who was a sea-captain and d. 1769, ae. 72; bu. at Ry-H.

GOODRICH, OLIVER, Capt., who d. 1780, ae. 66; who, in turn, had a son,

GOODRICH, OLIVER, Jr., mstr. of slp. *Harmony*, in 1785, voyaging to Santa Cruz, whence he imported rum; he d. 1830, ae. 79.

GOODRICH, EPHRAIM, Capt. of Dividend, had four sons, all sea-captains, viz.: *Stephen, Elizur, Thomas, John*; the latter's wid. living in 1884.

GOODRICH, GEORGE, d. at sea, 1794, ae. 23, bu. at "Launce Veaux," ("L'anse a veaux"—Calf Creek); more than one Weth. sailor was bu. at this obscure village on south side of Island of San Domingo.

GOODRICH, HENRY, (son of Israel and Abigail), "d. on his passage to W. I., and was bu. at sea," 1846, ae. 27.

GOODRICH, ICHABOD, of Stepney (capt.), son of Gurdon and Abigail (*Belden*) Goodrich; b. 1758; his father (Gurdon), son of Ephraim and Jerusha Welles. Ichabod rem. from Weth. to Ry-H.; was mstr. of ship *Chance*, capt. and destroyed by the Fr., 1799. This vessel sailed from N. Lond., 23 Nov., 1799, bd. for Martinique, with a cargo of horses, cattle, beef, pork, etc.; she was owned by Simeon Williams, John Woodhouse, Solomon and Joshua Robbins, and the cargo, valued at \$3,500, the vessel at \$6,500; she was taken as a prize to Point au Pietre, Guadeloupe; she was blt. in Weth. Ichabod had sons Thomas, Jason and William H.<sup>1</sup> He res. in ho. on E. side of Ferry St. (now of E. S. Gaylord), as did his son Capt. Jasper.

GOODRICH, ISAAC, mstr. and pt. owner (with Simeon Williams) of slp. *Two Brothers*, in 1796; also of the *Little Patty*, Wm. Griswold and Israel Williams owners; in 1797, he had Benj. Butler's schr. *Hitty*; in 1803, the slp. *Prudence*, belonging to himself, Wm. Ames and others; 1806, mstr. of Brig *William*, owned by Wm. Webb, Jason Boardman, Jason Robbins, Levi Goodrich and Wm. Williams. This vessel built by Abraham Jagger, of Weth. (Stepney?) in 1807, was in for. trade. If, as is poss., Capt. Isaac was son of David and Sarah (Edwards) Goodrich of Glast., he was b. 1743; his tombstone in Weth. Bu. Gd. dates his death, Sept. 28, 1813, ae. 62, with title of "Mr.;" prob. same as this Capt. Dr. Griswold thinks he was bro. of Capt. Ichabod; he kept store E. of Pomeroy ho.; later in one occup. previously by Justus Bulkeley.

GOODRICH, JAMES W., mstr. of schr. *George*, owned by Wait, Stephen and Gershom Bulkeley and others, 1840.—*Registration Rec.*

GOODRICH, JASON, (Capt.), Stepney, mstr., 1839, of Schr. *Exchange*, owned by Alex'r Hollister and Abijah Collins; but is reg. as from Htfd.; according to Dr. Griswold he and Thomas were bros.; and both sons of Capt. Ichabod; in his later years he had the ferry. His dau. m. Edw'd F. Robbins, of Ry-H., now of Oak Park, Ill.; and a gd-dau. of Lt. Fred Robbins (she now dec'd), had a bro. Thomas lost at sea, abt. 1827 or '28, in the first voyage of staunch new Bg. *John Marshall*, John Lewis, mstr. a packet of the N. Y. and Liverpool line. His wid. (Belinda Webb), m. his bro. Capt. Jason Goodrich.

GOODRICH, JASON LEWIS, Capt., (son of Capt. Jason), d. Ry-Hill, 1843, ae. 26 yrs. Dr. Griswold thinks that both Jason and Thomas res. at one time in E. Htfd.; also, that J. L. was a seaman, but not a sea-captain, but his gravestone gives him the title "Capt."

GOODRICH, JASPER, Capt., of Ry-H.; bu. at St. Croix (?), W. I., 1871, ae. 81; son of Ichabod above. Capt. Jasper Goodrich, well known here up to about 1865, after seafaring for many years, established himself in St. Croix, as a commission merchant and spent the larger part of his time there. Through him Shipman's Hotel got its famous brand of "double can" rum, highly valued by the expert tasters who visited that hostelry from Hartford and elsewhere. Some of the good folks who did not "keep

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<sup>1</sup> In MSS. note to the printed statement, Judge Adams says, "Dr. Griswold says that *Thomas* and *Jason* were sons of Capt. Ichabod."

hotel" also got samples from the same source. The reputation of the consignor was assurance of the 'genuineness of the article. There was also a Capt. *Jasper, Jr.*, but not a mariner.

GOODRICH, JESSE, Capt., built and occup. ho. of late Palmer Southworth, Esq., whether he was a sea-capt. is a little uncertain; was an active mer. and father-in-law of Henry Ferre, who succeeded him as a storekeeper. He d. 1850, ae. 79; was abt. 1820, associated with Sol. Porter, Jr., of Htfd., in ownership of several vessels, among which was the brig *Roland*; sometimes Elisha Shepard and James Blinn were pt. owners with him.

GOODRICH, ISRAEL, d. and bu. at Martinique, W. I., ae. 29; left wid. Abigail, who d. 1860. Said to have been a Gov't pensioner, if so, War of 1812.

GOODRICH, JOHN, was with Samuel Churchill, owner of slp. *Juno*, 1803—prob. of Weth.

GOODRICH, JOSEPH, Capt. of Ry-Hill.

GOODRICH, LUTHER, (Capt.), son of Roger, and father of Chester S., was pt. owner, with others, of Ry-H., of schr. *Peggy*, 1804; met his death, 1806 or 1808, ae. 37, by the kick of a horse. He m. 1797, Harriet Deming; they had a son Lemuel, who emigr. from Weth. to Little Rock, Ark., when that country was new and amassed a fortune.

GOODRICH, LUTHER, master of sloop *Jane*, 1806 or '08, coasting trader out of Conn. River, and 1815, the Sloop *Almira*, in same trade. He was from E. Haddam; m. Sally (dau. Thos.) Danforth, of Ry-H. He d. 12 Nov., 1832, ae. 56; she d. 5 Jan., 1861, ae. 81; res. in the old John Ames ho., burned some yrs. ago. There was another Luther Goodrich, who m. abt. same yr.—showing how difficult it is sometimes to avoid errors, owing to similarity of name. A story told of Capt. Luther Goodrich, was that he once took a cargo out of New York for St. Croix; and returning, after a time, without an exchange of cargo, reported to his owners that the island had sunk; he had "sailed all over it, but couldn't find it!" Other navigators, however, struck it in its old place.

GOODRICH, LEVI, (Capt.) mstr., 1806, of ship *Columbian*, 207 tons, then loading at Weth. for Charlotte, S. C., he d. 1820, ae. 45; res. in ho. later occup. by his son Levi, who d. 1876, ae. 76—was, in youth, a sailor.

GOODRICH, OLIVER, Jr., (Capt.), m. Sarah Warner, 1771; also m. a second time, had children by both wives; he had, about the time the Fr. were troubling Am. Commerce, some ventures in which Dr. Hosford had some interest; they met with losses, and had claims against the Gov't, under the Fr. Spoliation Act. The interest of H's. heirs in this was sold out to other parties some 40 yrs. later and something realized. After Dr. H's. death, his ho. and that of Capt. G. were sold out by Gov't at \$500 each; the Griswold place was bo't in to be returned to the Capt.; prob. the H. place fared similarly, as later Capt. Barzillai Goodrich, who had m. a dau. of Capt. H., resided in old ho. on the Hosford place.

GOODRICH, WILLIAM, 1803, pt. owner with Jacob and Israel Williams and Hosea Bulkeley, of slp. *Nancy*; was prob. of Ry-H.; in 1800, leased from the Selectmen of Weth., a portion of the shipyard at Ry-H., to bld. vessels in.

GOODRICH, WILLIAM, Jr., who, in 1826, was pt. owner of schr. *Carroll*, was also of Ry.-H.

GRIMES. This family (name orig. prob. was *Grihmes*, *Graeme*, or *Graham*) descended from Joseph, who held ld. at Weth., in 1694, and since that date has been prominently identified with the ownership of that portion of old Stepney water-front which comprised the Ship-yard Reservation, etc. (See Rocky-Hill Chapter, pp. 888-897.) It is not strange, therefore, that we find many men of the name, during successive generations, engaged in sea-faring life and shipping interests, and it has been well said that the seas and islands of the West Indies became almost a family burying-place to the Grimes of Wethersfield.

GRIMES, ALEXANDER, b. abt. 1745.

GRIMES, HENRY, (son of Alex'r), d. at Antigua, 1796, ae. 19 yrs.

GRIMES, HEZEKIAH, (son of Alex'r), d. 1823, ae. 58 yrs.—a River pilot.

GRIMES, NATHAN, (son of Alex'r), d. at Launce Vaux, San Domingo, 1796, ae. 22 yrs.

GRIMES, RICHARD, Capt., (son of Alex'r), voyáged extensively to the West Indies; his latest voyage being as mstr. of the brig. *Marshall*. He dealt largely in the transportation of horses to those islands; and became quite wealthy in this trade, but finally rem. to Texas, where he died, ae. 68.

GRIMES, SAMUEL, (son of Alexander), d. at Pointe-au-Piure, 1794, ae. 17.

GRIMES, WILLIAM, (Capt.); was lost at sea, both vessel and crew, while in temporary command of brig *Roland*, of Hartford, Sept., 1819, ae. 37, leaving wid. Mary (dau. Abishai) Jagger, to whom he was m. 1809.



GRISWOLD, a family which has furnished many mariners, but more soldiers.

GRISWOLD, CALEB, Sen., (Capt.), son of Michael, Jr., and gd-son of Michael, the Settler, who abt. 1646, occup. the ho. near the site of that occup. by heirs of J. H. Hurlburt, in Garden St. (a lineal desc'd't of Michael), son of Michael, Jr., and Elizabeth (dau. of Wm.) Burnham. He d. 1754 ae. 48. He m. Abigail Bunce (of High St. family of that name), and left a large family. There was another Capt. CALEB, who m. Lucy Francis, 1787, and was father of a *third* Capt. Caleb, who res. in Bezaleel Latimer's (late Martin Griswold's) ho. and rem. to Hartford, where he d.

GRISWOLD, ELISHA, (Capt.), bro. of above Caleb; mariner; m. Abigail (dau. Leonard) Dix.

GRISWOLD, FRANCIS, (Capt.), son of 2d Capt. Caleb; was an ocean navigator, who ranked very high in his calling; he d. 1851, ae. 56.

GRISWOLD, HARRY M., (Capt.), son of Moses, by first wife; d. at Honolulu, S. I., 1847, ae. 38; one of the most noted whaling captains who sailed from New Bedford, and a typical sailor; he m. ——— Robbins, and they res. in "Egypt." Weth. He was once drawn under a whale, that had been harpooned and was submerged long enough to have drowned any man, but was rescued and recovered. When at home, he res. with his aunt, Miss Polly Robinson, in the Emerson ho. She was broken-hearted at his loss.

GRISWOLD, JACOB, "Mr." lost at sea, May, 1792, ae. 34; was of Rocky-H.; may have been son of Jacob, son of Maj. Josiah—but Jacob and Justus were frequent names in this family.

GRISWOLD, JOSIAH, (Capt.), d. 1870, ae. 80; in W. I. and European trade; a noted athlete and thrashed many a man bigger than himself; was taken prisoner by a Br. privateer in War of 1812, and carried to Eng. though not without having seriously damaged some of his captors.

GRISWOLD, JONATHAN, Capt. of slp. *Polly*, 1795, owned by himself, and Caleb Griswold. Bezaleel Latimer and Henry Champion, 2d; in 1816, mstr. of slp. *Siren*, owned by himself, Justus Riley and others; she was built at Weth. same yr. He m. (1) Huldah Francis, 1790; m. (2) Millicent Francis, 1799; leaving ch. by both wives.

GRISWOLD, JOSIAH, Capt., mstr. of slp. *Sophia*, 1797; (poss. son of Daniel and Jerusha (Gibbs) Griswold; if so, he d. 1802, ae. abt. 32; a gd-son of Maj. Josiah Griswold.

GRISWOLD, JAMES, Capt. slp. *Eliza*, 1807, Caleb Griswold, 2d, and himself owners. If, as is prob., they were bros.—they were sons of William and Elizabeth (McCloud) Griswold, and James was b. 1769, and d. 1849, ae. 80; his wife was Lucy Buck.

GRISWOLD, JUSTUS, Capt., (prob. son of Maj. Josiah, who res. in fine old ho. demolished many years ago, a little W. of the present creamery in Griswoldville).

GRISWOLD, SIMEON, was first officer (mate) of brig *Two Brothers*, 1767-70, in W. I. trade (log-book in poss. of S. W. Adams) late; he was b. 1742, (prob.) and (prob.) son of Capt. Elisha, who m. Abigail (dau. Leonard) Dix.

GRISWOLD, SIMEON, Capt., was capt. by Fr. armed cruiser and the inhuman treatment he rec'd from them, it is said, rendered him morose and sour-tempered for remainder of his life; he d. 1858, ae. 86; he had a son Henry, a sailor, who d. 1854, ae. 28, of small pox.

GRISWOLD, TIMOTHY, Capt., an active navigator; in 1819, mstr. of schr. *Milo*, owned by himself and Nathan Morgan; 1821, had slp. *Siren*, owned by himself, Justus Riley, Jesse and Josiah Savage; also schr. *Science*, belonging to himself and Timo. and Rich. Green; in 1824, had the *Milo* again, in foreign trade; in 1826, had the schr. *McDonough*, in for- trade, and owned by Wm. Montague and Eliphalet and Heman Averill; in 1827, mstr. and owner of schr. *Antelope*. Prob. son of Jonathan and Huldah (Francis) Griswold; he was b. 1795; m. Laura Standish, and d. 1837.

GRISWOLD, WILLIAM, Capt., of Stepney, ran away to sea when a boy (he had been apprenticed to the carpenter's trade), got to London, Eng., there learned the sail-maker's trade, and later, did business for himself in that line; in 1762, m. a Mary Tapley, or Tappan, said to have been a lady of means; is said to have returned to Ry-Hill on his own vessel, which he brought up the Sound and the Conn. River, himself, having on board his wife, and some slaves. Another report is that, at one time before he returned, he was in command of a Br. East Indiaman, and that the lady who became his wife, was a passenger on board. He was also engaged in ship building and merchandise at Rocky Hill, and, perhaps also at the Cove; was associated in mercantile co-partnership with Capts. Barnabas Deane, John Wright and Justus Riley, which may account for his not taking command of the *Minerva*, when she was sent to sea by the State. He bo't and res. in large red ho., which afterwards (remodeled) became Green's Hotel at Rocky Hill, where he engaged in sail-making, and his desc'dts still have his stamp "William Griswold—Sail-Maker, London;" and later in ship-bldg. at The Landing. His dau. Charlotte, m. 1791, Capt. Wm. Webb; another dau. m. Elijah (father of Esq. Williams) Robbins. Capt. Griswold d. 1806, ae. 72 or 75; his son Benj. d. Dec., 1793, on passage from W. I., ae. 24.

HARRIS, WILLIAM, Jr., mstr. 1819, of Capt. Justus Riley's brig *Merchant*.

HANMER, JOHN, Capt., about the Revol. period, first of name in Weth.; d. 1799, ae. 68; perhaps Francis, Sr., who d. 1790, ae. 82, was his father.

HANMER, FRANCIS, Jr., (prob. gd-son of above), mstr. slp. *Allen*, 1803.

HANMER, SIMEON, mstr. and pt. owner of schr. *Four Friends*, 1807.

HATCH, DANIEL, Capt., (son of Zephaniah?), d. 1808, ae. 28; mstr. of slp. *Dove*, owned by Justus Riley, and built in 1784.

HATCH, LEVI, Capt., mstr. slp. *Mary*, 1824; occup. ho. site of Geo. Harris' present res.

HAVENS, SYLVESTER, THOMAS, HENRY, WILLIAM and HIRAM, shipbuilders. Hiram d. at Htfd., ae. 84; worked at Weth., Cromwell, New York City and in different places on Conn. River, where steamboats were built; also, at Prescott, Canada. His older bro. Thomas and perhaps William, also, and himself had contract for bldg. five steamboats launched in as many different places, between Springfield and Barnet, Va., all light draught boats (it is believed) and the first of the kind on the Conn. River above Htfd. Hiram also laid the keel of the first steamboat in Prescott, which also plied to Montreal. These men, all master mechanics, were sons of Thomas Havens, who m. Lucinda (dau. of Benjamin and Patience *Blinn*) Adams. He is supposed to have come from Long Island, with his father Thomas. A sixth brother *Uzziel*, was a sailor and m. Rachel (dau. Abraham) Jagger, a shipbuilder of Ry-H. and d. at Mantanzas, Cuba, 1825, ae. 35, leaving three sons, one of whom, William Grimes Havens, was a sailor and finally settled at Hawaii, where he m. a native woman, by whom he had a family.

HOLLISTER. In 1642, Lieut. John Hollister came to Weth., prob. from Dorchester, Mass., taking the John Reynolds' homestead, on E. side of High St. His desc'dts have been so numerous and so prominent in military affairs, especially in Colonial times, that it is presumable that some of them may have been navigators. Many of them, at least on the Glast. side of the River, have been ship-builders and sea-captains. But in present ancient town-ship only two—sons of Parismus H., now dec'd—have been seafarers: viz.:

HOLLISTER, JASPER, a whaler and before the mast, d. about a generation ago, of consumption. Had a brother.

HOLLISTER, WALLACE, now a well-to-do resident in Australia. These boys fled from their father's home some 35 yrs. ago, and the latter has never revisited it.

HOLLISTER, ROSWELL, (Capt.).

HORSFORD, Dr. ALLEN, a noted physician at Ry-H., part owner of slp. *Laura*, 1796, and of slp. *Hope*, 1797; he d. 1804, ae. 57.

HURLBURT. The desc'dts. of Thomas, the Settler, of 1637, a noted Ind. fighter, have furnished some men distinguished in military and seafaring annals.

HURLBURT, JOHN, Capt., (son of William, Jr., and wife Catherine), b. 1770, in the old ho. (long since demolished) on W. side Bell Lane, and just S. of the family home of Moses Morris; he was quite a scientific navigator, if we may judge from a series of nautical problems entered by him in a blank book which he bo't in London, in 1800. In Nov., 1796, he sailed, as first mate of the ship *Neptune*,<sup>1</sup> Daniel Greene, Mstr., from New York, on a cruise around the world (said to have been the *first* time in which the globe was circumnavigated by an *American* vessel). They went first to the Falkland Isles for seal, touching at many points on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, including the Sandwich Islts., then a barbarous country. Two log-books kept by him and ending with the stay of the ship at Wampoa,

China, in Dec., 1798, are still extant. While in China he bo't large quantities of silks and Chinaware, among the latter, a dinner set of 171 pieces, of "Synshong," at a cost of \$75. This was prob. a three years' cruise.

In 1803, he mstr. of schr. *Weasel*, plying betw. N. Y. and W. I.; he d. in N. Y., from smallpox, in 1808, æ. 38; he m. a dau. (prob.) of Capt. Ashbel Wright; and left a dau. Ann, who m. Henry (son of Gen. Nath'l) Terry. They were the parents of the well known authoress, Rose Terry Cooke, the late wife of Mr. Rollin H. Cooke, of Jittsfield, Mass. Capt. Hurlburt built and occup. the ho. lately owned and occup. by Levi Goodwin. The following is a copy of his "clearance papers," for the ship *Neptune*, in 1800.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

SUFFER the Ship *Neptune* of New Haven, *John Hurlburt* master, or commander, of the burthen of *Three hundred fifty-two & 87/95* tons, or thereabouts, mounted with *six* guns, navigated with *Twenty-one* men—

—To PASS with her Company, Passengers, Goods and Merchandise, without any hinderance, seizure or molestation; the said *Ship* appearing, by good testimony, to belong to one or more of the Citizens of the United States, and to him or them only.

GIVEN, under my Hand and the Seal of the United States of  
(U. S. Seal) America, the *Sixth* day of *January*, in the year of our  
Timothy Pickering, Lord, one thousand *Eight* hundred.  
Secretary of State.

*John Adams,*  
By the President.

State of }  
& } New York  
District of }

To all Persons whom }  
these may concern } Countersigned by  
*Joshua Sands, Collector.*

HURLBURT, JAMES, (bro. of Capt. John above), b. 1773, was a seaman;<sup>2</sup> 1807, pt. owner, with Bezaleel Latimer, of slp. *Mary*, built by Sam. Dimock, but poss. Samuel Buck was mstr.; he d. 1852, æ. 79; was fthr. of the late James Harvey Hurlburt; and occup. the old H. ho. mentioned in connection with Capt. John; perhaps he was the "J. Hurlburt," of the "Schr. *Sea-flower*, arrived, 16 day, frm. Point Petre, Guadalupe."—Aug. 6, 1793.—*Courant*. In 1813, he was captured by the British, and paroled for an exchange; and was given this Certificate of Parole:

PAROLE

By Authority of the Commissioners | for conducting His  
Majesty's | Transport Service, for taking | leave of Sick  
and Wounded Sea|men, and for the leave and Cust|ody  
of Prisoners of War.

THESE are to certify, That *James Hurlburt* as described on the back hereof, late *Seaman of an American Brig* has been released from *Custody* and permitted to



return to *New York* for the purpose of effecting his Exchange, by procuring the release of a British Prisoner of War, of Equal Rank, upon his having engaged that he will surrender himself at such Place, and at such Time, as the said Commissioners or their Agent for the time being may require; and that he will not serve against the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland*, or any of the Dominions thereunto belonging, or against any Powers in Alliance with *Great Britain*, until he shall have been regularly exchanged.

AND WHEREAS the said *James Hurlburt* is permitted to proceed direct, and without Delay from *Barbadoes to New York, calling at St. Vincent*, all and singular His Majesty's Officers, Civil and Military, are hereby desired and required to suffer him to pass accordingly, without any Hindrance or Molestation whatever, provided he leave this Colony within *Six* days from the Date hereof; but if he should deviate from the Route hereby pointed out, or be found in this Colony after the time allowed to him, he will be liable to immediate Apprehension and Imprisonment.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at *Barbadoes* this *twenty-seventh* Day of *May*, 1813.

*John Barker Lt. Col. & Agent for*  
Prisoners of War (Seal)

*Gratis.*

On the back of this Parole is the following description of *James Hurlburt*.

Name, *James Hurbet*; Rank, *Seaman*; Age, *20* years; Stature *5 feet 5 inches*; Person, *Thin*; Visage, *Long*; Complexion, *Fair*; Hair, *Brown*; Eyes, *Blue*; Marks or Wounds, &c. \_\_\_\_\_.

This description, curiously enough, does not seem to tally exactly with that contained in the "Protection Papers" issued to him in Apl., 1796, under the signature of Thos. Seymour, Mayor of the City of Hartford, Conn., and the seal of the State of Conn., April 21, 1796, which describes him as "five feet, two and  $\frac{1}{8}$  inches in stature; blackish hair, dark brown eyes, darkish complexion & that he is & ever has been a citizen of Weth. and of the U. S."

HURLBURT, NATHANIEL, in 1808, mstr. of brig *Neptune*, Normand Knox, of Htfd., owner; registered for foreign trade; prob. N. H. was from Weth.

HURLBURT, WILLIAM, 2d, in 1847, pt. owner of slp. *Citizen*, with Elizur Hurlburt.

JAGGER, ABRAHAM, of Stepney built the slp. *Jack*, in 1804, and brig *William*, 1807; prob. others; he also built houses; the name on the old recs. is "Gager," which is prob. same as the German "Jaeger," which means "hunter." Jeremiah, the Settler, res. 1640. on E. side of road extending S. E. from lower end of Broad St.

KILBOURN, THOMAS, the Settler, the first white man who occup. the lot lately Col. Chester's, now Comstock, Ferre & Co., on W. side Broad St., had but few sea-going desc'ts in Weth. The most prominent of the name in this line were found in the Htfd. and E. Htfd. branches.

KILBOURN, JOSHUA, Capt., (son of George), b. Weth., 1770; m. Lucy Holt and rem. to New London; was mstr. (among others) of the ship *Yankee*; d. N. Orleans, 1811.

KILBOURN, GEORGE, (bro. of above), also a sailor.

KILBOURN, HEZEKIAH, Jr., (son of Hez. of same name, whose tavern was a little N. of Meeting House), b. 1725, became a sailor; res. for a time in Bermuda and d. at sea, unmarried, in 1753.

KNOWLES, Capt. JAMES; d. 1765; prob. of E. Haddam; res. N. side of road to River.

LARKIN, SAMUEL, Capt., d. at Mobile, 1837, ae. 46, (son of Isaac and Abigail), went early, as mate, with Capt. James Blinn; he was a bro. of the late Mrs Levi Warner, and much respected.

LOVELAND, GEORGE, Capt., (son of John) m. Hannah (dau. of Curtis) Welles, 1822; d. young; left several ch. still living; the late John L. was his half bro.

LOVELAND, JOHN, (Capt.) mstr. schr. *Dolphin*, 1805, owned in Midd. and in for. trade; he may have res. in Midd. and poss. was the John L. Jr., whose wife, Rebecca, d. 1801, ae. 27. (See *Weth. Bu-Gd.*) John, Sen., was in Glast.; his wid. Comfort, m. Nath'l Coleman of Weth. and d. there 1786, ae. 71.

MOORCOCK, "Mr." NICHOLAS, a warehouse owner at the Cove, 1694; also a sea captain; came from Boston, prob. as a youth, and remained at Weth. up to 1695; prob. a trader to Virginia.

MARSH, JOHN, Capt., built slp. *Liberty*, 1804; res. Stepney; prob. the Capt. John who was running the slp. *Allen*, in 1807, and who d. Ry-H., in 1836, ae. 83.

MCCOMBE, ANDREW, "of Weth." mstr. of slp. *Polly*, 1795.

MILLS, DAVID A., mstr. schr. *Lydia*, 1860; later of steamboat betw. Htfd. and N. Y.

MITCHELL, the Weth. family desc'd. from James, a native of Scotland, who d. 1771, ae. 71; his son (and a brother of Chief Justice Mitchell) Capt. JAMES, Sen., was mstr. of schr. *Fox*, in 1775, then carrying cattle, pork, etc., to the W. I. for Joseph Webb. His cargo was 20 head of cattle and 80 bbls. of pork. He died 1779, ae. 55.

MITCHELL, JAMES, JR., (Capt.), son of above; was drowned 1801, on return passage from W. I., ae. 27; as also was his bro. STEPHEN, at same time, ae. 20.

MITCHELL, WILLIAM, (son of Capt. James, Sen.) d. in W. I. 1800, ae. 21 yrs.

MONTAGUE, descs. of Richard, from Boston, 1647; rem. to and a founder of Hadley, Mass., 1659. His gd-son Richard came to Weth., 1718, and occup. Jona Blinn's pl. on So. Hill.

MONTAGUE, MOSES, (Capt.), b. 1763, (son of Richard, Jr., b. 17 March, 1730, and Olive (dau. Capt. Gershom Nott), m. Eunice Harris; engaged in W. I. or European trade; in 1800, was mstr. of slp. *Ralph*, of which his wife and John Francis were owners; Capt. M's interest in cargo, \$1,589. The slp. was captured; made a prize, and Capt. M. was taken to France, a prisoner; the shippers (of Htfd.) claimed a loss of \$18,000; he d. 1804, ae. 41.

MONTAGUE, GURDON HARRIS, (Capt., son of Capt. Moses) b. 1789; m. Martha (dau. Josiah and Cynthia Wood) Robbins; commanded U. S. privateer *Joel Barlow*, in War of 1812, and is said (*M. Geneal.*) to have "captured a valuable prize;" was living in New Haven, 1847; thence went with the G. H. Montague Mining Co. to California on the schr. *G. H. Montague*, accompanied by his sons, Richard and Francis.

MONTAGUE, WILLIAM, (son of Capt. Moses) m. Eliott (dau of Nath'l and Martha Hanmer) Stillman; rem. to Htfd.; owned the "Montague wharves" there and had large lumber business.

MORRIS, RALPH, Capt., (bro. of late Moses and Davis) d. at sea.

NEFF, JOSEPH, pt. owner of slp. *Enterprise*, 1810; prob. of Ry-H. Neff is a recent name in Weth. Mr. Neff, of Stepney was a spar-maker and the father of William, who rem. to Wilmington, N. C., where he was a ship chandler.

NOTT, GERSHOM, (Capt.), one of Weth. most respected citizens; (son of John, Jr., and gd-son of John, the Settler) b. 1693; in 1735, or thereabouts, was mstr. of a brig to W. I., a fact which led to an important law-suit in which James Wells and others of E. Haddam and Saybrook sought to recover £2,000 damages from him on account of alleged non-fulfillment of contract relative to disposal of their vessel and cargo in W. I.; Nott won the suit; he d. 1772; appears to have been wealthy for the times; was father-in-law to Joseph Webb, Sen., who was wealthy; the Shepardson ho. and pl. was built for and occupied by him and is probably one of the oldest and largest of Weth. large buildings.

NOTT, WILLIAM, Capt. of slp. *Two Brothers*, 1795; she belonged to John Nott, Roger Riley, Benjamin Butler, Jason Boardman, all of Weth.

NOTT, JOHN, above referred to, was prob. the Capt. of that name who commanded a vessel in L. I. Sound in 1777 (see *Revolutionary Chapter*) he may have been a bro. or the father of William.

The Notts of Ry-Hill are desc. from John, the Settler at Weth., about 1636, who res. on the present Bap. Ch. corner.

PETTES, JAMES, had the slp. *Farmer* in 1875, Samuel Pettes, also of Weth., being a part owner; also of slp. *Sarah* same yr.; the other part owners were Eleazer and David K. Porter of Htfd. Perhaps Samuel was bro. of James; an ancient name in Stamford and vicinity.

PELTON, SAMUEL, was running, in 1804, the slp. *Jack*, in the coast trade, and owned by John Williams, 2d.

POMEROY, OLIVER, JR., Capt., of Ry-Hill; active mcht.; d. 1776, ae. 46.

PRICE, JOHN, *Stepney*, Capt., mstr of *Sea Flower*, to N. Carolina, as early as 1772; whether then living at Ry-H. not known.

PRICE, JONATHAN, Capt., mstr. of slp. *Eliza*, in W. I. trade, 1804; Oct. 4, 1804. "For Sale: The slp. *Eliza*, 77 tons burthen. Apply to Capt. Roswell Hol-

lister at Glastonbury or Capt. Jonathan Price at Ry-Hill. Wethersfield, Oct. 4, 1804." *From American Mercury*, 1804.

PRICE, RICHARD, prob. of Ry-H., from 1799 to 1809, appears as mstr. of slps. *Charlotte*, *Ursula* and *Prudence*, and schr. *Ann*, mostly in for. trade; he sailed mostly for Oliver and Barzillai Goodrich, Hosea Bulkely, and other Ry-H. owners.

PRICE, JACOB, remembered by Mr. Chas. Williams of Ry-Hill as of that place; mate of a Htfd. brig, as well as of other vessels; he lived in ho. now occup. by John Burkett, at Ry-H., since destroyed by fire.

RHODES, JOSIAH, Capt., res. in small old frame ho., which stood opp. Silas Robbins' store; was in W. I. trade and was lost at sea; wife was Sarah Wright; had four sons, three of whom followed the sea. viz.:

RHODES, WILLIAM, Capt., rem. to New Haven, where he m.; was the father of Lt. Underhill Rhodes, U. S. Rev. Service, who so distinguished himself in the rescue of passengers of a shipwrecked stmr. off Gay's Head.

"RHODES, HENRY W. This gentleman's account, as originally given in Judge Adams' Sketches, was corrected in a subsequent number of the *Farmer*, thus—by one who signed her name "Mary A. Williams, *not dead*." Was mate of one of the largest ships out of Boston, in the East India trade. He m. for his 1st wife, a Spanish lady. He lived with her in Valparaiso, S. A., until two children were born to them. He then deserted her, came to Weth., and passed himself off as a single man and married Mary A. Williams, a sister of the late Thomas W. Williams. She learned he was a married man and left him; he put a weed on his hat and said she was dead; then he went to Eng. and married there the dau. of an innkeeper, and brought her to Weth.; afterwards, they lived in New Haven. In the Civil War, he enlisted and served long enough to get his bounty money and then left the country."

RHODES, ROYAL, a sailor and prob. an officer in the mercantile marine; mate of the ship *Waverly*, of Boston and lost at sea; unmarried.

RHODES, THEODORE S., d. at sea April, 1800.—See gravestone in Weth. Burgd.

RILEY, one of the most noted of Weth. sea-faring families. Most of the American stock of mariners of this name have been desc. of John, the Settler, 1645, who bought James Boosey's homestead (formerly that of Robert Coe, 1635) W. side Broad St. on cor. once occup. by the late Thos. G. Adams. This property, John Riley exch. 1669 for the Thos. Couch pl. on S. E. side Broad St., where he res. until his death, about 1674.

RILEY, ACKLEY, with Levi Edwards owned slp. *Sally*, 1796.

RILEY, ASAHUEL, Capt., 2d; d. and was bu. at Ry-H., 1797, ae. 57; his wife Mabel (dau. Dea. Ebenezer) Goodrich.

RILEY, ALLEN, of Ry-H., mstr. of slp. *Sally*, 1798; res. in ho. on site of that now occup. by Mrs. Hoskins; in his later years was a river pilot.



RILEY, ASHBEL, Capt., (prob. bro. of Justus) d. 1794, æ. 60; he commanded the privateer brig *Ranger*, 14 guns and 20 men, in 1776; and the *Snake*, 4 guns and 20 men, 1780. He was prob. the "Capt. Riley of Weth." of whom account is given in the *Htfd. Courant* of 26 Aug., 1793. It relates that he arrived on 2nd Aug. at Charleston, S. C., with brig *Nancy*, having left Port au Prince, July 18, for New York. His crew were a mate, 5 men and a cabin boy. July 19 he was boarded by men from two Br privateers and made a prize. Two prize-mstrs. were put in charge, with one white and one black man and four American prisoners taken a few days before; and four of the *N*'s crew were taken off and the vessel ordered to proceed to New Providence. A few days later, Capt. R., with the help of the rest of his crew, seized the arms, re-captured the *N*. and took her into Charleston. This vessel was lost at Eaton's Neck, L. I., March, 1795, Capt. John Webb being then master—she had cargo of rum, sugar and molasses from Jamaica, *Conn. Courant*, 9 Dec., 1793.

RILEY, J——, (Capt.), commanded slp. *Hero*, in 1778, of 6 guns and 40 men; prob. Justus Riley, then 38 yrs. old; altho' it may have been Capt. Jacob, or some other of the name whose Christain name began with J.

RILEY, JUSTUS, was also a ship owner; in 1780, he, with Cpts. Barnabas Deane, John Wright and Wm. Griswold were eng. in a general export trade and in ship building. On their application, the Gen. Assembly, by its Committee of Safety, authorized them to make a shipment of 5,000 pounds of sugar, 100 of coffee and 100 gals. of rum to New Jersey, overland, "notwithstanding the embargo, to be exch. for iron needed in shipbuilding. Justus Riley owned many vessels, most of which were built in Weth. and Ry-H. Also the brig *Eliza* and schr. *Return*, taken in 1799, were run by Captains bearing the Riley name—prob. Weth. men; yet the only list of claimants by French Spoiliations in Judge Adams' hands, failed to show their Christian names. One of the vessels built and owned by Capt. Justus Riley was the brig *Martha*, named after his dau. Mrs. Chester Bulkeley. This vessel was launched from the River bank on the E. side, near the store by the now abandoned ferry; that store being one of several warehouses owned by him, and was prob. identical with the brig *Patty*, Capt. Josiah Homestead, mstr., which was captured, Sept. 2, 1796, by the Fr. cruiser *Iris*, taken to Guadalupe, libeled, confiscated and sold. The brig *Merchant* (?), built for him (or his son Roswell) some yrs. later, by Sylvester Havens, was launched at the Cove; also pt. owner, 1796, of slp. *Geneva*; 1804, schr. *Mars*; brig *Betsy*, 1809; brig *Edward*, 1810; slp. *Siren* and schr. *Milo*, 1816; sole owner of slp. *Dove*, 1784; slp. *Susan* & *Nancy*, schr. *Triton*, brig *Peggy*, slp. *Phoenix*, 1804; brig *Perseverance*, 1806; brig *Martha*, 1808. Capt. Riley's wife was prob. sister of Daniel Buck. Stephen Riley, David Riley, John Warner, John Morton, and Benj. Morton, all of W-d., agree Jan. 11, 1732/3, to "completely effect, furnish and perfect all ye work which pertains to ye carpenter to perform according to custom on board ye slp. "*Stepney*." He was also pt. owner of brig *Commerce*, built abt. 1813, and launched at Keeny's Cove, and Capt. Humphry Woodhouse, Sen., and Sylvester Havens were its builders. It ran first to New Orleans; it was this brig, which was wrecked on the coast of Africa and the crew captured and enslaved.—See *Riley's Narrative* and *Robbins' Journal*. Capt. Riley d. 1824, æ. 84; his 1st wife Martha, d. 1772, æ. 35; his 2d, Mabel (Buck?), d. 1843, æ. 95; his son Ezekiel, a sailor, d. at St. Croix, 1800.

ae. 28; whether his son *Roswell*, who d. 1824, or *Justin*, who d. 1831, were sailors, is unknown. The former owned considerable shipping, notably the brig *Gov. Griswold*, in 1824.

RILEY, EBENEZER, Capt., of Berlin, prob. went from Weth., as his wife was born there.

RILEY, JACOB, Capt., whose wife Abigail, d. 1788, ae. 41 yrs.; res. Ry-H.

RILEY, JABEZ, Capt., d. at Ry-H., 1824, ae. 87; wife Hannah. It is related of Capt. Jabez Riley that once, before sailing on a voyage, he buried his money in his orchard, telling no one of it. While at sea, his vessel encountered a severe storm, and expecting every moment to go down, the Captain, bethinking himself of his buried treasure, bottled up a description of the place of its deposit and threw the bottle overboard to take its chance. Fortunately, however, the ship was not lost, and, as soon as he returned home, he dug up his treasure and deposited it in a chartered bank, in preference to *dirt* bank. But, alas for the fallacy of human calculations, the chartered bank failed, the Captain lost his money, and metaphorically, "blasted his eyes," that he was not lost at sea, so that his money might have been saved—and this, though the unfortunate bottle had never been heard from!

RILEY, JAMES,<sup>1</sup> Capt., was the hero of *Riley's Narrative* (see *Riley Geneal.*, Vol. II<sup>1</sup>); b. in Midd. (Upper Houses.)

Capt. Riley's father was *Asher*, son of *Nath'l* and Abigail (*Montague*) Riley, of Weth. His mother was Rebecca Sage, and his wife Phoebe (dau. of Hosea) Miller, of present town of Cromwell—(*Statement* of Mr. W. Wiltshire Riley of Cromwell, Ct., son of Capt. James)—who has written an interesting "Sequel" to his father's "Narrative."

RILEY, LEVI, (Capt.), mstr. of a vessel lying at N. Y., 1774, with cargo of onions.

RILEY, RICHARD, Capt., Mstr. (and Belden Boardman, Mate) of a vessel plying betw. New York and Newbern, N. C., and New Providence, W. I., 1794; both men were of Weth.

RILEY, ROGER, Capt., 1798, mstr. of slp. *Polly*, owned by Capt. Wm. Griswold; res. in the Levi Robbins ho.; his dau. being Mr. Robbins' wife; pt. owner slp. *Two Brothers*, 1795. [Dr. Griswold thinks that *Jacob* Riley, not Roger, was Mrs. Robbins' father; but Mr. Chas. William of Ry-H., says that Roger's 2d wife was Ruth, wid. of Roger Bull, whose dau. Eunice Bull, became the 1st wife of his (Mr. W.'s) father.]

ROBBINS, ARCHIBALD, (Stepney), b. 1792, at Rocky-Hill, son of Capt. Jason, was one of Capt. James Riley's crew on the brig *Commerce*, when wrecked on the coast of Africa, in 1815. This brig was owned by Riley & Brown of Hartford, and the Messrs. Savage; she sailed from Midd. and left the mouth of the River, May 6th, 1815; with a crew of twelve, including officers. Capt. Riley, his two mates and cabin boy from Midd. Robbins belonged to Rocky-Hill. They reached New Orleans, June 1, and took on a cargo of flour and tobacco for foreign ports. At Gibraltar, she shipped some

brandy and wine. Her next objective point was the Cape de Verde Islands to fill up her cargo with salt. Desirous of making an expeditious passage, Captain Riley ran down the coast between the Canary Islands and the Continent. Presumably the brig outran the calculations of her officers and not westering enough, at 10 at night, on the 28th of August, she struck on the northern line of Cape Balador, between 26 degrees and 27 degrees north latitude. The crew got safely to land, but were set upon by some of the natives, and one was made prisoner. The rest put to sea in one of the boats, running southwest into the Atlantic in the hope of falling in with some vessel. After standing out four days and exhausting their small stock of water, the horrors of death from thirst determined them to change their course to southeast and after running in three days they made land again near Cape Barbas. Thence they worked their way northward along a rugged coast for three days and then fell into the hands of the native savages. Knowing that considerable sums were paid for the redemption of prisoners that fell into their hands, the Arabs slowly worked these ill-fated men northward toward Morocco. Captain Riley was ransomed after a captivity of about two months. Mr. Robbins was kept a prisoner for nineteen months, finally being taken north to Noon and Tangier. Five others also were ransomed, but another five are supposed to have remained and died in captivity.

Archibald Robbins wrote and published a "*Journal*;" and Capt. Riley published a "*Narrative*" of their experiences in this captivity, which obtained a considerable circulation at the time. Indeed about all that was then known in this country, up to within a few years, and up to the present, of the geography of the Atlantic coast and of the great African desert, over an extent of latitude from 32 degrees to 16 degrees north, and of the inhabitants—their habits, customs, modes of life, religions, character, means of existence, etc.—was obtained from the narratives of Captain James Riley and Seaman Archibald Robbins of the Brig *Commerce*. Like experiences, in the same region, of Spaniard and English captives had given the nations of Western Europe a similar knowledge; but beyond this, although the country was within a few days sail of the ports of Spain and Portugal, whence adventurous mariners made long voyages around the Cape to the Indies and across the Atlantic to all the coasts of the new world, the terrors of the barren sands of Sahara and its savage nomads had forbidden the footprints of the most daring explorer except, per force, as a prisoner of the wandering Arab. Civilization could not penetrate where the spirit of desolation reigned supreme; and only accident revealed that desolation to European eyes. Some twenty years ago Captain Mayne Reid put in type a small volume for boys, giving the wanderings and adventures of a supposititious person through the same region. It was a very interesting and readable effort; but the older boys, who had not forgotten the books of Riley and Robbins, could not go through it and fail to see (what Captain Reid did not disclose) that his inspiration, as well as his pictures of life and customs in the sandy sea of North Central Africa, were derived from those older volumes. Proper credit ought to have been given them. This experience of the crew of the *Commerce* was by no means exceptional. Other seamen from here, had similar adventures. One of these and the last survivor of the *Commerce* crew, was Mr. HORACE Savage—the former cabin boy of the brig. He resided in Wethersfield village many years, and died there October 14, 1882, aged 82 years.

Mr. Charles Williams states that, at the time, it was the general opinion that the brig was after a load of slaves. It was said by sailors that she was a long way out of the course she should have sailed, and that her cargo consisted principally of salt beef, potatoes and many casks of fresh water—circumstances which were suspicious. This opinion had, at least, its justification in the fact that a considerable number of vessels sailing from N. Eng. ports at that time, and later, made voyages for slaves—which they sold in the W. I. Islands, often making fortunes in a single voyage. The business was not held to be much more amiss than slave holding, and some very excellent people had an interest in the importation of slaves. As to this single case, this can only be a conjecture; but if there was truth in it, it was by no means uncommon.

This experience and a previous one which Mr. Robbins had had during the War of 1812, did not deter him from following the sea. He became one of the sea-captains of the town. In February, 1813, Mr. Robbins sailed from New York to St. Bartholomew, on a merchant vessel. She was captured by the British frigate *Surprise*; the crew was landed at the latter port and returned in a cartel to New York. Again, when on a voyage from New Haven to St. Bartholomew, the vessel was captured by the British off New London, and sent to Halifax. After two months Mr. Robbins got to St. Bartholomew on a Swedish vessel, and from thence to New York. Taking passage for New London on another vessel, which also fell into the hands of the British, he was sent back to Halifax on the Brig of War *Borer*, and kept a prisoner on Melville Island till the conclusion of peace by the Treaty of Ghent. In 1823, he married Almira Williams, who died in 1835; and in March of the following yr. he m. her sister Elizabeth (both gd-dau. of Thomas Danforth). In July, of same yr., they left Ry-H., per steamboat for Ohio, and sett. in Solon, where he d. in Dec., 1860; she d. in Clinton. Iowa, Aug., 1883.

It is related of Capt. Robbins, that, in 1823 or '24, he contracted to carry two loads of men to Albany (to help dig the Erie Canal, then in process of construction), and that on one of these trips he took 400 passengers at \$4 per head, including their board. As there were no *tugs* in those days, the length of time to accomplish the voyage was very uncertain; but he had the good luck to land his passengers at A. in 48 hours, and was back at Ry-H. in six days from the time he left there. The second voyage was nearly, but not quite so successful. These diggers went in the spring, but returned in November, when the deep snows and cold prevented the prosecution of the work.

Capt. Robbins' nautical life commenced when he was a boy of 16, by making a voyage on a vessel partly owned by his father. The voyage of the *Commerce* was his sixth.

ROBBINS, DANIEL, Capt., (son of Joshua), d. 1767.

ROBBINS, FREDERICK, Senior, son of Esq. John, of Wethersfield, who m. (1) Martha (dau. of Capt. Jacob) Williams; m. (2) Sarah (dau. Capt. Crafts) Wright. Mr. W. F. J. Boardman thinks she was *wid.* not dau. of Wright and that her maiden name was Sarah Boardman. Her son John Wright m. Martha (dau. of John) Robbins by his first wife Martha Williams—a novel complication, and may have been the Capt. John Wright. Fred'k Robbins, in 1805, was pt. owner (with 11 others, all res. in Ry-H.) of schr. *Friendship*, in for. trade.



ROBBINS, JASON, his wife Honor, who was bu. at Ry-H., 1800, ae. 32; he m. again; was father of Archibald (above); was with Eli Goodrich, pt. owner of slp. *Elmira*, capt. by Fr., 1788; res. next N. of Shipman's Hotel, which latter was built by Capt. Wait Robbins, and now occup. by Talcott A. Arnold; Capt. Jason rem. in 1829, to the Connecticut Reserve, in company with Timothy Clark (hatter) and Samuel Bull (shoemaker) and their families settled near Ashtubula, Ohio—went by wagons, each family with its own wagon, and pairs of horses—in a heavily loaded wagon drawn by horses; he d. in Weth.—*information by Chas. Williams—1881.*

ROBBINS, JUSTUS, mstr. and pt. owner of slp. *Julia*, 1821, of which Joseph Bulkeley, of N. Y., was other pt. owner; prob. son of John Robbins, Jr., of Ry-H., and he inherited from his gd-father John R., Sen., a large estate; acc. to Mr. Chas. Williams of Ry-H. Mr. Justus Robbins was eng. in mercantile business with Edmond Bulkeley; he also had a gin distillery where the Ry-H. coal yard now is; d. in N. J., at res. of a dau.; one of his daus. m. Col. Edmond Bulkeley.

ROBBINS, RICHARD, pt. owner (with Moses Dimock and Israel Williams), 1818, of slp. *Nancy*; he was father of Silas W. and of Dea. R. A. Robbins.

ROBBINS, WAIT, Jr., mstr. and (with his father, John, Senr.) pt. owner of schr. *Farmer*, in the for. trade, 1804; was b. in that ho. in Weth. at extreme S. end which was destroyed by tornado of 1787; his father rebuilt the ho. on same ground; ho. occup. until recent years by a gt-gd-son, Mr. Griswold.

RYER, HENRY, who res. just below Broad St., and was father of George Rver, the former Hotel Keeper at Ry-H., had the slp. *Cornet*, in 1826.

SAVAGE, LUTHER, JOSIAH, TIMOTHY, of Midd. origin, and all sailors, were associated with Capt. Justus Riley as ship owners. Of the same stock was Capt. HORACE, who was as a youth cabin boy of the ill-fated Brig *Commerce*; afterwards mstr. of schr. *Spartan*, owned in Htfd., 1825, and of schr. *Albion*, 1826; he res. in Mexico for some yrs. and spoke Spanish fluently.

ROBINSON, ASHBEL, Capt., mstr. of (betw. 1823 and 1832) slps. *Leader*, *Flash*, *Falcon*, and *Pearl*. He is credited to Weth. on the Custom Ho. rec. tho' the name is not accorded to Weth. As Abijah Collins, Henry and Walter Bulkeley, and others of Ry-H., were owners of these vessels, Capt. R. was prob. from some section of township. Dr. Griswold says he res. at Dividend (Ry-H.), and came from So. Glast.; d. abt. 1837, at Georgetown or Charleston, S. C. His son Silas, d. at sea. ae. 14; sons Henry and Isaac still living [1887].

SEYMOUR, ELISHA, ran the slp. *Margaret*, in 1805, and the *Lucy*, in 1806.

SHAILOR, SAMUEL, prob. of Portland, or somewhere "down the River;" mstr. of a shipyard "in Weth." prob. at Stepney, records credit him with bldg. the slp. *Ursula*, 1804, slp. *Amelia*, 1805; brig *Elizabeth*, 1806.

SMITH, JOSEPH, Capt., Ry-H.

SMITH, JOSIAH, Capt., d. 1793, ae. 85.

SMITH, JOHN, in 1810, mstr. brig *Friendship*, built at Weth., 1805, owned by Roland Lee and Truman Griswold of Htfd.

SMITH. In the *American Mercury*, appears a dispatch, dated New York, August 17th, 1808, that several vessels were "captured Saturday last, near Montauk Point, by the U. S. Frigate *Chesapeake*, Commodore Decatur, and ordered to this port." The first on the list of these captured vessels was the brig *Celia*, Smith, of N. Y., "from Weth. for Dominico, captured off Block Island."

England and France were then at war. Bonaparte had, by his Berlin and Milan "decrees," declared a blockade of British ports; and Eng. by its "Orders in Council" had declared a blockade of French ports. Each nation had seized American vessels, assuming that they were bound for ports blockaded by them, respectively. The U. S. in consequence, at President Jefferson's suggestion, had declared an "Embargo" on Am. shipping; and the vessels thus seized, as above had undoubtedly been seized for violation of the Embargo. This Embargo operated very disastrously for New England; and that section was consequently very slow to assist the Federal Government, when the War of 1812 was declared. Out of these seizures made by Eng. and France, of Am. vessels, grew the "Spoliation Claims," which have occupied the attention of Congress for so many years.

STILLMAN, Capt. ALLYN, see *ante*. p 552.

Another view of the difficulties under which American commerce suffered at this time is given by the following extract from a paper of the time. The slp. *Industry* of Hartford, Capt. Giles Savage, mstr., capt. by a French privateer, May 6, 1800, bound for Martinique, laden with sheep, hogs, cheese and hams (taken out by the captors) and horses and cattle, and was sent to Gaudeloupe; but on the 19th of June, was recaptured by the Br. brig *Busy*, carried into harbor of Tortola, in the Virgin Islands, and compelled to pay salvage of one-half value of vessel and cargo. The vessel was valued at \$1,800, and her burthen was 80 tons. total value, as sold £1458, 8s, 6d.

STILLMAN, GEORGE, (Capt.), another bro., sailed to Mediterranean ports; and on one voyage brought from Lisbon some marble slabs, accruing from the great earthquake there, which he used in the construction of a sideboard in his home. He prob. commanded the brig *Martha*, which was launched from the River bank, a little above the present River landing. He was the father of the late Dea. Geo. Stillman. Another brô. was Maj. Joseph Stillman, Jr.

STILLMAN, (Capt.) NATHANIEL, 1st, (son of Geo., the Settler, and Rebecca Smith), a military, not a sea-captain; m. (1) Anna Southmayd, of Midd.; m. (2) Sarah (dau. Capt. Joseph) Allyn; res. E. side High St., on site of Dea. R. A. Robbins' ho.; he d. 1770, ae. 79. *By his first wife*, he had (I) Capt. NATHANIEL, 2d; *by second wife*, he had (II) ALLYN (Capt.), who rem. after the Revol. from the Nancy Tryon place to Enfield; (III) SAMUEL (Capt.), b. 1741; d. 1794; (IV) GEORGE (Maj.-Gen.) rem. to Machias, Me., where he rendered important services during Revol. War; (V) JOSEPH, who res. in ho. next N. of High St. School; lost at sea in Brig *Hope*, 1809; (VI) TIMOTHY (Capt. and Dea.) seaman; commanded, among others, the Brig *Ontario*.

STILLMAN, NATHANIEL, (Capt.), 2d, m. Mehitabel (dau. David) Deming; he d. 1794, ae. 86; *Children*: (I) SOUTHMAYD, b. 1754, lost at sea, young; (II) GILES, d. at Cape St. Francois, 1796, ae. abt. 30; (III) SIMEON (Capt.) a prominent sea-captain, who d. 1847. ae. 83; he m. (1) Rebecca Deming; m. (2) Nancy Deming; res. in Water St., close by River; had *Simeon* and *Jared A.*

STILLMAN, SAMUEL, (No. III of Capt. Nath'l the 1st's family), b. 1741; d. 1794; m. Millicent (dau. Bezaleel) Latimer, and res. in old Goodrich ho. on site of present Bap. Ch.; was one of the most skillful navigators of his day; he accomplished in 1784, the then unparalleled feat of making three voyages to Jamaica, in one yr.—See Caulkin's *Hist. New London*, p. 574.

STILLMAN, OTIS, (Capt.) son of Joseph, gr-son of the 1st Nath'l) res. in ho. next S. of High St. School Ho., was lost at sea in brig *Hope*, 1809. His wife was Martha (dau. of Capt. Nath'l 3d) Stillman.

STILLMAN, NATHANIEL, (Capt.), 3d (son of Capt. Nath'l 2d), was a Revol. soldier m. Martha Hanmor and res. at head of High St., Commons, W. side, tho' he and his father, earlier, res. in the Belden ho., foot of Chemical Lane; he d. 1838, ae. 86; his son *Charles* perished at sea in the brig *Hope*, 1809, commanded by his bro.-in-law, Capt. Otis Stillman. Another son of Nath'l 3d, *Francis*, sea-capt., d. in N. Y., 1838; res. in Weth. in ho. now occup. by wid. of Dr. A. S. Warner.

The late Mayor Allyn S. Stillman, of Hartford, was a gd-son of Capt. Nath'l 2d, by his son James.

STRATTON, WILLIAM, of Weth., mstr. of slp. *Victor*, 1797.

TALCOTT. This family, descendants of the Hon. Samuel Talcott, the Weth. Settler, is much less distinguished for its achievements on the water, than for its military record; which latter is truly remarkable, if we include those members thereof who, as citizens of other States, both North and South, have served in the armies of the U. S., especially in that of the late Confederate States. These latter officers, though born in the South, were descendants of that Capt. Samuel Talcott, of the militia, who rem. from Weth. to Glastonbury. Still, there were *some* sailors in the family; or, perhaps, we had better say the race, in speaking of the whole body of descendants of original settlers.

TALCOTT, EBENEZER, (son of Samuel and Thankful *Belden*) Talcott, b. abt. 1758, was lost at sea.

TALCOTT, JOSIAH, (bro. of above), a sailor, was drowned in Conn. River.

TALCOTT, JOHN, (bro. of above), a sailor, was lost in L. I. Sound, near Saybrook, while returning from a voyage to the W. I.

TALCOTT, JOHN, (Capt.), son of Dea. Benj. and Sarah (*Hollister*) Talcott, of Glast.; was a gd-son of the Capt. Samuel, before mentioned. He was mstr. of the transport ship *Gull*, in the Cape Breton Expedition of 1745; from whence returning, he put in at Provincetown, Mass., where he d. and was bu.; his family rem. to Hebron.

TREAT. This family once numerous, and all desc'd from Richard, the Settler, or Matthias, is now extinct in Weth.; though many of the blood, tho' of other names, are still res. there. The Treats were mostly prominent in military and civil affairs—tho' there were a few who followed the sea.

TREAT, CHAUNCEY, (Capt.), 1824, of brig *Merchant*, built at Weth., 1816, for Justus Riley and in 1824, owned by Fred. Bangs, Henry Kilbourn and others of Htfd., and in for. trade.

TREAT, HORACE, mstr. of schr. *Mary Rose*, 1819, built at Weth., in 1816, and owned by Hon. Henry L. Ellsworth, of Htfd.

TREAT, JAMES, bu. at Galveston, Texas, 1840, ae. 48.

TREAT, JOHN H., (son of John and Prudence), d. at sea, 1806, ae. 21 yrs.

TREAT, JAMES, (bro. of above John H.), d. at sea, 4 Nov., 1840, ae. 41 yrs.

TREAT, JAMES, Capt. of brig *Eleanor*, Baltimore vessel, capt. 1798.

TRYON, JOSIAH, Capt., mstr. of schr. *Williams*, 1804, owned by John Caldwell and others, and eng. in W. I. trade. He may have res. in Waterbury, where many desc'ds of orig. Weth. settlers of the name rem. to.

TYRON, EZEKIEL, Capt., in 1811, was mstr. of slp. *Friendship*, owned by Jacob Williams of Ry-H. Poss. he was of Glast.

TRYON, MOSES, Jr., who had rem. to Htfd., was in 1806, pt. owner of brig *Connecticut*, and schr. *Archer*; and in 1807 of brig *James*; in 1815 pt. owner of schr. *Pearl*, and slp. *Hector*, in both of which vessels his co-partners were Thomas Tryon and Joseph Harris. Whether this Thomas was bro. to Moses, we know not; [in 1801, Moses Tryon, with John Williams, sold to Thomas Curtis, a "flat-bottomed schr." *The Black Prince*. B. A.]

UTLEY, HORACE, in 1816, had the schr. *Gen. Macomb*, built in Weth., 1815, for Htfd. owners.

WARNER, ALLEN, who d. 1848, ae. 75, was, perhaps a sailor; his son *Daniel* d. in 1817, on passage home from W. I., ae. 19 yrs.; another son, *Walter*, went West abt. 1836. Mr. Chas. Williams, of Ry-H., says that the Warners of that town claim to be descended from a Southern branch, from the Weth. stock.—S. W. A. Mr. W. F. Warner, of St. Louis, Mo., the family historian does not accept this view.—H. R. S.

WARNER, JONATHAN, Capt., who d. 1786, ae. 74, must have been a sailor—at least, no military commission issued to him, has been found.

WARNER, JOHN, Capt., who d. 1808, ae. 79, and was prob. the Capt. Warner, who had a vessel at the W. I., 1786.

WARNER, JOHN, Capt., whose wife was Elizabeth and whose son *Roger* d. 1770, ae. 30 yrs.



WARNER, JOHN, Jr., in 1829, (with Horace Welles), owned slp. *Mary*; he was prob. father of the late *Horace Warner* and of *James Warner*, who lives at Ry-H.

WARNER, WAIT, Capt., d. at Ry-H., 1804, ae. 72; he was (auth. of Dr. R. W. Griswold), gd-fthr. of the present *Wait Warner*, Sen.; he had also, a son *William*, also called Capt., who was lost at sea.

WARNER, WALTER, 2d, mstr. of slp. *Galen*, 1830.

WATERBURY. Several of this family (an old one in Weth.) have been mariners, if not sea-captains, and have sacrificed their lives early to their calling.

WATERBURY, JOSEPH, Jr., (son of Joseph, Sr.), d. at sea, 1825, ae. 30 yrs.

WATERBURY, SIMEON, (son of Joseph, Sen.), d. Jamaica, W. I., 1808, ae. 21.

WATERBURY, WILLIAM, (son of Joseph, Sen.) d. at Guadeloupe, 1805, ae. 21.

WEBB, JOHN, Capt., previously ment. as commanding the privateer *Fair Trader*, in 1782, was prob. son of Joseph Webb, Sen., whom we know had a son John; he was a man of much business and an active sea-captain. In 1795, while in command of brig *Nancy*, first day out from N. Lond. for a trip to W. I., he lost brig and cargo on Eaton's Neck; in 1796, he was Capt. of the brig *Pearl*, when capt. by Fr. or Sp. Cruisers. In 1790, he was mstr. of brig *Recovery*, plying to Lisbon.—See Caulkin's *Hist. New London*, pp. 488, 494, 496, 498.

WEBB, (Capt.) DAVID, desc't of Christopher, who settled at Braintree, Mass., 1645; d. 9 Oct., 1770, of small pox, and at sea, which may account for the absence of a stone to his memory, in the cemetery. Capt. Webb's second wife was Mary, the daughter of the Hezekiah Grimes, who operated the ferry at Rocky Hill, from 1734 until his death in 1749. Capt. Webb lived in the old house (the Brandagee-Webb-Candee house) burned down in 1876; that stood where the south end of the front building of the Pierce Hardware Company now is, at the Rocky Hill landing. He could not have been the David Webb at Stamford in the Revolutionary period.—*Dr. R. W. Griswold.*]

WEBB, WILLIAM, (Capt.), a noted sea-captain; d. at Rocky Hill, 1843, ae. 79; was son of Capt. David and res. in his father's ho.; shipbuilder, owner and master; exported from Ry-Hill and imported gds. to same; is supposed to have owned the South Wharf as an inheritance from his father and gd-father. Was an active man at Ry-Hill from abt. 1787, for 40 or 50 yrs.; was son-in-law of Capt. Wm. Griswold.

WEED, JAMES, (Capt.), of Ry-H., his wife Ketenah, d. 1781, ae. 59.

WELLES. In this family, among the descendants of Gov. Thomas, or of Hugh Welles, there have apparently been but few mariners.

WELLES, GIDEON, (son of Capt. Solomon, who built and res. in ho. once owned by Gen. Leonard R. Welles, his gd-son), was, in 1793, mstr. of brig *Polly*,

then plying to Port au Prince, W. I. In 1795, he d. on way home from W. I. and was bu. at sea, ae. 39. Upon the headstone erected to his memory in the Weth. Burying Ground, is a metrical inscription of some length, the first line whereof reads as follows:

"The Bosom of devouring seas entomb my mould'ring dust."

Though he is bu. at Weth., Dr. R. W. G. claims him for Ry-H. "It is not at all likely that Dr. Chapin would have put this name in his list of deaths, if the man had not lived in his parish—the date &c., on the passage for the W. I.," shows him to have been the same.

WELLES, JOHN, (Capt.), d. 1793, ae. 68 yrs.; wife Rebecca.

WELLES, HORACE, (Capt.), d. 1853, ae. 65 yrs.; his maritime career was brief; pt. owner of *Slp. Mary*, 1829.

WELLES, SIMEON, mstr. of brig *Ontario*, 1804, owned by Geo. Pierce of Htfd., and blt. in Weth., 1892; also, of schr. *Lydia*, in 1805; and brig *George*, 1806,—all in for. trade.

WELLES, THOMAS, owner (with Geo. Blinn, John Harris and Elisha Robbins) of *slp. Lady Washington*, 1795.

WHITMORE, HEZEKIAH, a ship-wright of some prominence, had a yard at Ry-H., where the schr. *Friendship* was built by him in 1804, and the ship *Brutus*, in 1806.

WILLIAMS. The families of this name in Weth. and Ry-Hill are of several distinct stocks. See our *Williams Genealogy*, Vol. II.

WILLIAMS, DANIEL, (Capt.), prob. a sailor. His wife Thankful d. at Ry-H.

WILLIAMS, ELIAS, (Capt.), of Glast., d. 1798, ae. 81 yrs.; was of another branch from that of Thomas, the Settler, and all the Williams in Ry-H. for past 100 yrs. have been desc'd'ts of his; was quite a draughtsman, and when at sea made drawings of ships, fishes, etc., or whatever attracted his attention.

WILLIAMS, JACOB, (Capt.), son of Jacob, and prob. gd-son of Thomas, d. 1813, ae. 58; his wife was Mehitable ———; their son Thomas B., d. W. I., 1821, ae. 17. A Capt. Jacob (prob. the same, acc. to Custom Ho. recs.) ran betw. 1795 and 1805, the schr. *Industry*, the sloops *Love*, *Sally*, *Little Patty*, *Nancy* and *Friendship*—tho' Mr. Chas. Williams credits the *slp. Industry* to John, not Jacob Williams. Capt. Jacob (first referred to above) bo't of Hannah Clark, the ppy. that came to her from her father Jonathan Smith, on the S. side of Ferry St., from abt. Cross St., and to the River, in 1739, and which formed the S. third of the orig. grant to Sam. Boardman, Jr., 1665. He built just in front of present Roderick Grimes' ho.

A Capt. JACOB, father of Capt. Jacob above, first mentioned, d. at Rocky Hill, 1751, ae. 62.

WILLIAMS, JOHN, who inherited his father's home on South St., was an active business man, largely engaged in ship-building and commerce, and is said to have had at times, five or six vessels employed in the W. I. trade, and to have been worth the large sum (for that day) of \$20,000. In the War of 1812-15, he lost, within the three years, five vessels and their cargoes, and this swept away the larger part of his ppy. his creditors taking the balance; he gave up the old homestead in 1820, and d. 1827, ae. 64 or 65.—*R. W. G.*

WILLIAMS, JOHN, in 1804, mate of schr. *Dolphin*, of Midd., to for. ports.—*Custom Ho. Rec.*

WILLIAMS, MOSES, son of Elial and Comfort, d. Port au Prince, W. I., 1794, ae. 22 yrs.

WILLIAMS, MOSES, (Capt.) d. at Rocky Hill, 1810, ae. 81 yrs.—likely a desc't of Thomas and son of Jacob, tho' his home was in the orig. Williams grant, in a ho. which he blt. close by the River, and N. of S. & E. S. Belden's shipyard.

WILLIAMS, ISRAEL, Capt. of the vessel which, in 1774, conveyed to Boston the contribution of provisions donated by the people of Weth. to those in B., who were suffering from the effects of the Boston Port Bill; in June, 1777, was authorized by the Council of Safety to sail to foreign ports with a schr. load of pork, to exch. for salt for the people of Glast.

WILLIAMS, THOMAS W. and LEWIS, brothers, and their father. Englishmen or Welchmen by birth, res. and d. in Griswoldville. Thomas W. d. in California, 1880, ae. abt. 60; and was quite a noted whaling-captain, sailing from New London, or New Bedford; and his eldest son is said to be following the same calling in the northern Pacific Ocean. Lewis, also a res. of California, is supposed to be in same business.

WILLIAMS, ELISHA, Jr., (son of Rector and Col. Williams, by his first wife Eunice Chester), had an interest in several vessels; he m. Mehitabel Burnham, 1749, and d. 1784; occup. ho. which stood on site of Silas W. Robbins' present ho.; having built it in 1753-4, for his father, who prob. did not live to occup. it. He had a son Capt. Elisha, 3d, (a military title), who m. Sally (dau. of sea-captain Thomas) Newson.

WILLIAMS, EZEKIEL, Jr., (son of Sheriff Ezekiel, of Revol. memory, and nephew of the Rector), if not a mariner, was, at least, largely interested in shipping and for. trade; with John Caldwell and other, of Htfd., he owned brig *Betsy*, Capt. Bunce, Mstr., taken by the Fr. 1799; was, also, pt. owner of schr. *Betsy* and cargo, Capt. Francis Bulkeley, Mstr., cap. in 1800; also, with Capt. John Chenevard, of Htfd., owner of schr. *Peggy* and cargo. Capt. Geo. Benton, capt. same yr. Mr. Williams was at this time abt. 35 yrs. old, and his marine interests were evidently many and important. Perhaps his father (at this time aged abt. 70) was also interested in the same. Ezekiel Williams, Jr., rem. to Htfd.; the late Oliver Ellsworth Williams was his son. Among his bros. were the late "Squire" John Williams, of Weth., the late Chief Judge Thomas S. Williams, of Htfd., and William Williams, a signer of the Declaration of Independence was his uncle.

WILLIAMS, SIMEON, owner and mstr. of slp. *Two Brothers*, 1797; with Joseph Edwards, owner, 1795, of slp. *Delight*; in 1796, with Isaac Goodrich, of slp. *Two Brothers*.

WILLIAMS, ELIAB and ELIAS, with JACOB and WILLIAM, were owners, 1795, of schr. *Industry*; prob. all of Ry-H.

WILLIAMS, WILLIAM, pt. owner, with Israel and Jacob Williams, of slps. *Sally* and *Eagle*, 1797; and of schr. *Peggy*, 1804; of brig. *William*, 1807.

WILLIAMS, William, (prob. above), builder of the schr. *Mary Rose*, blt. in Ry-H., in yard N. of present railroad depot; vessel named after his dau-in-law, dau. of Capt. John Rose, of Weth.; bro. of late Chauncey Rose, of Terre Haute, Ind. (*Chas. Wms. of Ry-H.*)

WILLIAMS, JOHN, 2d, in 1798, pt. owner, with Philo Goodrich, of Schr. *Ursula*; in 1803, he owned slp. *Jack*; in 1806, he and Sam. Dimock owned schr. *Victory*; 1807, he and Justus Robbins owned schr. *Nancy*; 1809, he owned slp. *Charles*; in 1810, he was pt. owner of schr. *Sally*, and sole owner of slp. *Merino*; 1815 sole owner of slp. *Sally*. Dr. Griswold says the slp. *Friendship* was built and run not by Jacob, but by John Williams, and Mr. Chas. Williams thinks she was capt. by the Br. off Saybrook, taken to N. Lond. and burned, Capt. Chas. Abbey of Glast. being master. The Custom Ho. rec. say she was built in 1802; in 1806 Jacob Williams is called owner and captain. Later masters were Ezekiel Tryon, Belden Wolcott, and Geo. Crane. A schr. of same name was built by Hez. Williams in 1805, owned by 11 Ry-Hill men, and of which Wm. Webb was master. From other parts of Dr. Griswold's letters, I infer that it was the *Merino* and not the *Friendship* which was capt. and burned in 1812. S. W. A.

WILLIAMS, ROGER, 1810, pt. owner of schr. *Sally*.

WILLIAMS, WAIT, with Josiah Butler and Wm. Williams, owner of slp. *Jane*, 1819.

WILLARD JOSIAH, had slp. *Defiance*, 1801; if, as we suspect, he was from Newington, he is the only mstr. of a vessel who can be credited to that section of the township.

WOODHOUSE, the descendants of Joseph Woodhouse the Settler, who came from England about 1710 have included some navigators and shipwrights. Joseph, in 1716 bought the Thomas Wickham dwelling (the first brick ho. built in Weth.) on W. side of High St. next S. of the Common. Some of his descs. were coopers, in the day when cooperage was a leading industry here.

WOODHOUSE, LEVI, (son of Abijah and Jane James) a sailor; d. at Jamaica, 1808, ae. 21.

WOODHOUSE, JAMES, (prob. bro. of above) d. at sea, 1821, ae. 30.

WOODHOUSE, JOSEPH, drowned at sea 1811, ae. 28, was son of John and Sarah Buck Woodhouse; and his wife was a desc. of Curtis, a desc. of Gen Welles.



WOODHOUSE, SAMUEL, Sen., whose wife was Thankful *Blinn*, was father of a number of sailors, viz.

- I. SOLOMON, Capt., a first class navigator, lost off Cape Hatteras, 1794, young and single.
- II. SAMUEL, Capt., m. Abigail Goodrich and lived to be 78; d. 1834—having survived several sons cut off in their prime—of wh. one George, was lost at sea, 1817, ae. 25, leaving a wid., Hannah, dau. of Elisha Coleman and a son of the late Samuel Woodhouse, Esq., of Griswoldville.
- III. HENRY, d. at Charleston, S. C., 1826, ae. 25; unmarried
- IV. HUMPHREY, Capt., built many vessels and was also a skillful navigator to foreign ports; m. Rebecca (dau. of Camp. and Mehitabel Baxter) Adams; he d. 1827, ae. 56; with Gov. Wolcott owned the slp. *Gull*, built by Sylvester Havens; and the first vessel (it was claimed) which went to South America; also built and owned the *Venus* (built by S. Havens) which was wrecked on Block Island, Havens and Nath'l Alvord of Windsor owners with him. His son *Humphrey, Jr.*, was master of many vessels and a skillful coast pilot; he m. dau. of late Walter Thos. Harris (father of late Walter and Henry Harris) and d. 1872, ae. 77. One of his sons is James H. of New Haven, who—if our memory serves us correctly—informed us that he had built about 50 vessels since he rem. to that city; another son (and bro. to James H.) is *Humphrey*, for many years a leading shipper and meht. at Brownville, Tex. A sister of Capt. Humphrey Woodhouse, viz. Julia wid. of late Sect'y of State, Royal R. Hinman and since died, res. in Htfd., ae. 80 yrs.—to whom *S. W. A.* was indebted for the foregoing information.

WRIGHT, this family descended from Thomas the Settler, who, in 1639, res. at W. side of High St., has furnished some mariners.

WRIGHT, ASHBEL, Capt., d. 1817, ae. 59 yrs.—the title *may* have been a military one.

Eleazer Wright of Weth. "last Saturday morning fell from the mizzen—top of a vessel that is bldg. at a dock in this city [Htfd.] survived but a few hours."—*Courant*, May 29, 1805.

WRIGHT, CRAFTS, Capt., (son of Capt., military title) Timothy, and his Christian name derived from an ancestor Moses Crafts and d. 1760, ae. 40.

WRIGHT, JOHN, (prob. son of Capt. Craft Wrights Martha (dau. of John) Robbins; he d. 1786, ae. 38; assisted in building and became master of slp. *Ann*, built at Stepney in 1773, by John Ames and Joseph Dimock, for Samuel Boardman; meht. Wright made a six days' trip in sleigh to Conn. to get the iron used in her construction. In 1774 and '75 was at N. Y. with onions became part owner of the schr. *Speedwell*, of which he was commander in 1777.

As to the number and names of vessels built at the yards in the township, it is very difficult to prepare anything like a complete list. I am told that Mr. Philemon Robbins, a native of Wethersfield, but

later of Hartford, remembered seeing *nine vessels* on the stocks, at one time, at Rocky Hill. A partial list prepared by Judge Adams, of Wethersfield-built vessels, embraces the names of *sixty-six* built here between 1784 and 1832. [This list, which includes none built by the Beldens, at the present ship-yard, is omitted here, as their names and dates have been given elsewhere in this already too long chapter—H. R. S.]

Were the Custom House records complete, it might have been possible to extend the above mentioned list. Quite a number of vessels were here builded for Nantucket parties, presumably for whaling purposes.

After this chapter had been begun, and was well under way, Judge Adams, discovered from an examination of the *licenses* of ship-masters, in the Custom House, some additional names of masters, not before mentioned; these have been included, however, by the present editor, in the foregoing list.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### *Ecclesiastical Denominations (Other than Congregational, or Presbyterian) in Wethersfield.*

[By SHERMAN W. ADAMS, Esq.]

HAVING NOW sketched the history of the Old or First Church of Wethersfield, we proceed to trace the rise and progress of later and other congregations within the Town. But, first, we must say a word as to the general history of these dissenting bodies.

*Dissenters.*—These may be said to have been the outgrowth of the regular, or “established” church—it being understood that by the latter term we particularly designate the Church founded upon the Confession of Faith, and heads of agreement adopted by the Elders and Messengers who composed the Saybrook Convention. As early as 1708, the General Court had enacted that such persons as “soberly dissent from the way of worship and ministrie established by the antient laws of this goverment,” might, in the County Court, qualify themselves, in the mode provided by act of Parliament, and, thereafter, worship God “in a way *separate* from that which is by law established,” etc. But, it was also provided that this should not excuse such persons from paying the taxes laid for the support of the *regular* ministry. And, at this time, wilful absence from a place of public worship was an indictable offense. In 1723, it was punishable by a fine of twenty shillings, to “form into separate companies in private houses,” under color of gathering together “for preaching and other parts of divine worship.” In 1730, it was enacted that “those who profess themselves of the Congregational, or Presbyterian persuasion” ought not “qualify themselves,” as provided in the Act of 1708; thus discouraging the subdivision of churches in the same Society limits, even though they dissented. In 1727, it had been enacted that such persons as were “of the Church of England” should be taxed for the support of the ministry (*i. e.*, the Presbyterian, or Congregational) of the parish in which they lived, except there happened to be a “*Society* of the Church of England” in such parish, and a person in orders, settled and performing divine service among them; in which case the tax should be handed by the collector to the rector of such Episcopal Church; and the mem-

bers of the latter were "excused" from payment of taxes to build meeting-houses "for the present established churches of this government." Thus, legislation particularly favored and fostered Congregationalism. In May, 1729, the Quakers, and in October of the same year the Baptists, were allowed to form in church organization and support ministers of their own denominations, and be thereafter exempt from taxation for support of the regular clergy. Both of these sects were also called "dissenters."

In 1743, the privileges of dissenters were extended to "Presbyterians, or Congregationalists"; they having, in some towns, construed the Act of 1708, to apply to the established church of the Colony as well as to irregular denominations—if we may properly so designate all the others.

By the same Act of 1743, all dissenting *protestants* were informed that they might "expect relief" on application to the General Assembly. Thereafter, it became the practice for different church organizations to be formed on application to Legislature; the petitioners alleging that they "soberly dissented from the established church," and it being found that they were worshipping in a "separate church." In some cases, petitioners alleged that they were "of that profession, or denomination, called *Separates*"; but, as a rule, the term "*Separates*" did not refer to a distinct sect, but was oftener a general term to indicate such, as having formerly worshipped with the regular church parish, were now desirous of separating themselves therefrom, in order to form an independent body. Most commonly, the "sober dissenters" were Baptists, and so called in their petitions. These Acts of Toleration dropped out in the Revision of 1750.

It was in 1777 that the Legislature enacted the law specially exempting "those persons in this State, commonly styled *Separates*, from taxes for the support of the established ministry," etc. The preamble states the occasion of the Act, as being that: "There are some Churches in this State, of persons professing themselves to be *strict Congregationalists*, who notwithstanding, have separated themselves from the Churches and Congregations established by the laws of this State, and are yet liable to pay taxes for supporting the ministry," etc. The object of the Act seems to have been to place the *separating* congregations on the same footing, as to exemption from taxation on account of the "established" church of the parish—with the Baptists, Quakers and Episcopalians. The effect was, also, to permit the organization of *additional* Congregational societies, within the same parish limits



where there was one such already. But, the new society, unlike the old, or "established" one, was without territorial limits and its members were prohibited from voting in Society meetings excepting on questions involving the management of schools and educational matters. And the established church of the parish continued to be supported at the general charge of the inhabitants of the parish until the formation of our Constitution. Some preparation for this change had been made by the Act of 1784 (in the revision of that year), providing for the exemption of church-going dissenters, of all denominations; the Act of 1791, which removed some of the trammels which had impeded the formation of new societies; and the Act of 1804, which authorized an *established*, or original church, to newly organize, and be divorced from the civil, or municipal features of parish rights and duties.

Under these varying circumstances of the legal *status* of ecclesiastical bodies, the number and kind of such had been rapidly increasing in the Colony and State. In 1680, Gov. Leete informed the British "Committee for Trade and Foreign Plantations" that—the"strict Congregational men," and the "more large Congregational men" are the "greatest part of the people in the Colony." He also reported that—"there are some moderate Presbyterians"; also, "4 or 5 Seven-day men, and about so many more Quakers." At the same time, there being 26 towns within the Colony limits, there were but 21 churches in all. But undoubtedly there were many individuals attached to churches of Congregational worshipers, who were ready to form in bodies of other denominations so soon as accessions to their numbers should be large enough. Milford, oldest daughter of Wethersfield, had a church of "Dissenters from the Established Church" as early as 1750; thus showing itself more active in ecclesiastical matters than its parent. This church, of which Rev. Job Prudden was pastor—called itself "Presbyterian" in 1760. In Newtown, a Society of the "Church of England" was apparently in a flourishing condition in 1752. In Killingly, in 1755, a society calling itself "Separates" had a church of its own. In 1757, a Baptist Society at Enfield was granted special privileges; and it claimed to have been long embodied in church estate under the pastoral care of Joseph Meacham. Another such church was formed in Lyme in 1767.

*The Baptists.*—The first preaching done in Wethersfield, by a Separatist, was probably by the Rev. Ebenezer Frothingham, in 1745. He had been ordained there, in October of that year. The next year he





METHODIST  
CHURCH.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

ROMAN  
CATHOLIC  
CHURCH.



BAPTIST CHURCH.

WETHERSFIELD CHURCHES.

suffered imprisonment, for five months, "for preaching without the consent of the minister of the parish."<sup>1</sup>

[From Mrs. MARIA H. BURDITT, of Wethersfield, we have received a time-worn and stained document, of about the middle of the last century, endorsed "A Copy of a Letter written by Ebenezer Frothingham to his persecutor when in Prison for his Religion." The "persecutor" to whom it is addressed was probably the Rev. James Lockwood, then pastor of the Wethersfield Congregational Church, who, under the existing law of the Colony, may have felt himself obliged to proceed against one who, with his few followers, was disturbing the peace of the community.

"Hartford Goal, April 25th, 1745.

Dear fellow Mortal—You & I are passing into Vast Eternity & Least I should have no other opportunity to Discharge my duty according to *Leviticus* 19th 17 verse. I Embrace this by paper to Let you know this time perhaps you have a prejudice in your heart against me (& opposing the Glorious & Blessed work of god that has been in Wethersfield & the Land & for your Denying the power & Operations of gods spirit in the hearts of Believers & for your Carnal & Vain Conversation which is Enmity against God see *Romans* 8-7 verse & it is Evident to me as Seen by the teaching of gods spirit & his word and your fruits—that you are an open Enemy to god & his Children & have the mark of the Beast in your forehead you are pulling down the Just vengeance of God upon you & your family from day to day & in a Condemned State *John* 3-36 verse and are doomed Down to the burning main of gods Vengeance & unless you are Converted & God give you Repentance you will shortly be cursed Down Down to the Bottomless pit among Devils and Damned Spirits to welter out a whole Eternity of torment, farther your taking me from my Bussiness that god in his providence Called me to & carried me to the justice & then to prison which you had no warrant from the word of god to do, nor no authority under heaven—as a Civil authority has no Right to meddle with Ecclesiastical affairs (if I had transgress'd it was to the Church & Christ the great

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<sup>1</sup> 1745 was prob. the year of Mr. Frothingham's disturbances of Weths.' religious peace—for on *Recs. of Co. Ct.* Vol. R. Case 159, under date of April, 1745 we find note of "Ebenezer Frothingham of Weth., found guilty by jury, and fined for false and reviling speeches concerning Rev. James Lockwood." See, also, date of his letter from Htfd. goal, in the text.

Ebenezer Deming, Jr. of Weth. (see Case 156 same vol. of *Co. Ct. Recs.*) "fined for disturbing worship" Nov. 1745, and Jedidiah Atwood, Weth. (Case 43,) fined Nov. 1745, fined for criticising doctrines of Rev. Mr. Wadsworth of Htfd. First Church—were probably adherents of Mr. Frothingham.



Sheperd has Committed all the power to them) See *Matthew* 18-17-18 Vers's & if you fail of the grace of god your thus dealing with me will be another Great aggravation of your Eternal Damnation ———. By this time perhaps you have a prejudice in your heart against me (& the truth) supposing I have written in anger or spight against you for your treatment to me—But dear soul I Could freely fall down & kiss your feet if it might be any means for you to see the truth of the awful state of your Immortal Soul. I entreat & Beseech of you to set about the great work of Getting your peace made with god that if the Day of grace is not already Come to an End with you—Paradventure the Lord may send his spirit to shine with you once more this is What I want & all I desire of you, is that you may Experimentally know Jesus Christ whom to know aright is Life Eternal & I should rejoice Eternally with you if you will accept of a Crucified, Despised & Exalted Saviour Let me Intreat & warn you as you would not bring Down Swift Destruction upon your Self not to scoff any more at the work and power of god nor at the new Lights as they are Called nor yet to touch them in matters of Religion to Carry them before authority for in so doing you touch the apple of Christ's Eye, and these Lines will be a swift witness against you. These lines from your soul well wisher. *E. F."*—*H. R. S.*]

There were but few members of Mr. Frothingham's society, and he soon divided his time between Wethersfield and Middletown. At the latter place he, in 1754, established what is now known as the South Church. He died at Middletown, in 1798, aged 81 years.

In 1784, one FRANCIS HANMER, the "Elder" of the Congregational (or Presbyterian Church, as it sometimes called itself), with Joseph and Simeon Flower, John and Simeon Deming, John Goodrich, James Hanmer, John Stewart and Abijah Tryon, memorialized the regular church for abatement of their church taxes, on the ground that they "soberly dissent from meeting with their congregation for public worship on the Sabbath." In December, 1785, the Old Society voted to abate these taxes, and in the recorded vote, also said: "This Society is desirous to give all men free liberty of conscience to worship God as they see fit and to pay their moneys to such persons as they choose for preaching the gospel to them." A similar vote was passed in January, 1787; but in February, the same year, probably owing to extensive repairs then being made on the meeting house—a vote to exempt was negatived. This was the origin of the BAPTIST Society in Wethersfield; unless we date from the time of services being first held by these Separates, to which we have above referred.

So far as the *names* of the memorialists above mentioned are any indication—the Separates of Wethersfield were not descendants of the earliest settlers of the Town, but were, in the main, comparatively recent comers. The Society is now included in the Hartford Association of the Connecticut Baptist Convention.

The Rev. E. P. Bond, a former pastor of the Baptist Church in Wethersfield fixes the date of the organization of that Society in 1782, but on what authority, the writer is not informed. What is well known is that its first place of worship was the School-house of the Third, or North-Brick, School District. Mr. Bond has furnished the writer with the names and dates of incumbency of the pastors and other matters which follow in this connection.

The first house of worship was built in 1816, and its site was some rods west of that occupied by the Baptist Church of to-day. After a few years it was removed to the south corner of Main St. and Sandy Lane. In 1876, it was demolished, and the present structure erected on its site. It was a frame building, painted white; had galleries, and a central porch, or tower, at its eastern entrance. It had a brick basement for Sunday school purposes. A fine new bell (1,050 pounds) has recently been put in place. No description of the present church edifice is needed here.

The *first resident* pastor was Rev. William BENTLEY, who held the sacred office from Oct., 1815, to Oct., 1822. He was born in Newport, R. I., March 3d, 1775. In 1775, the house and tannery of his father were burned by the British at the taking of that place; the family escaping to Dighton. The boy William was apprenticed to a baker in Boston. He was converted under Baptist preaching, and continued in business until his ordination in 1807, as a preacher, and served without settlement, at Woburn and Tiverton, R. I., and at Malden, New Bedford and Worcester, Mass. From Worcester, he came to Wethersfield, and the latter place remained his home until his death, Dec. 24th, 1855. After his resignation, in 1822, he often supplied the pulpit; but was mainly occupied as a State missionary.

The Rev. SETH EWER was the next pastor; his term beginning early in 1823, and ending near the close of 1824. He was a man of about 50 years of age, when he came here, and in addition to his pastoral duties, taught a private school.

From 1825 to 1834, there was no resident pastor. During this period the Rev. REUBEN WINCHELL supplied the pulpit for about a year. In Feb., 1834, Rev. JOHN HOLBROOK, now deceased, was installed pastor; but he left in September of the same year. From this time until

1839, there was no stated preacher; the most frequent occupants of the pulpit being the Rev. Augustus Bolles and Rev. Gurdon Robbins, both of Hartford.

From Sept., 1839, to Sept., 1841, Rev. WILLIAM REID, a native of Scotland, was the pastor. Wethersfield was his first place of settlement. He has since been pastor at Tariffville, Bridgport and New London, Ct., and Greenport, L. I., being now pastor of a church at Brooklyn, N. Y.

The Rev. HENRY KENYON was the pastor from the summer of 1842, until early in 1844. He was succeeded by the Rev. HENRY I. SMITH, who continued until August, 1845. The Rev. CYRUS MINER, since deceased, was pastor for one year, beginning in April, 1846; Rev. HENRY BROMLEY was pastor from April, 1847, to April, 1849.

The Rev. PIERPONT BROCKETT (father of Linus P. Brockett, the well known literary writer) came to Wethersfield, from Canton, and was pastor from April, 1849, to April, 1852. He continued to reside in Wethersfield, where he died, quite advanced in years, in April, 1868.

From May, 1852, to Oct., 1853, Rev. H. B. WHITTINGTON was pastor. The next settlement was that of Rev. WILLIAM S. PHILLIPS, Sen., from June, 1860, to Feb., 1862. He died some years since in South Carolina. Rev. AMASA HOWARD, later chaplain at the State Prison, succeeded him, from Jan., 1864, to Apr., 1866; he was the father of Dr. Arthur Howard, of Weth., and died some years since. Rev. GEORGE W. KINNEY was pastor from April, 1868, to Jan., 1869. Rev. JOSEPH BURNETT from Oct., 1870, to Nov., 1872. Rev. Henry G. SMITH from March, 1873, to March, 1874. Rev. WM. S. PHILLIPS, Jun., from Apr., 1874, to Apr., 1875. He died about 1880, at South Chelmsford, Mass. Rev. A. RANDLETT was pastor from May, 1875, to June, 1877. The second house of worship was erected in 1876, during his pastorate. Rev. A. S. BURROWS, from Aug., 1877, to Nov., 1878. Rev. E. P. BOND began in May, 1879, and after his resignation, removed from the town. He was much beloved by all the townspeople, and his daughter Ella is now a foreign missionary.

*Methodists in Wethersfield.*—While the advent of the Baptists may be located at about the middle of the last century, Methodism found a footing here at a much later date. The influence of Roger Williams had been felt within the Colony almost from the time of its settlement; but Methodism was non-existent in America until after the coming of John Wesley to these shores, and his return to England. In fact, the first Methodist Society in England was founded only in 1738; and not until 1784, was its *episcopal* element established in this



THE OLD "CORNER STORE."  
Burned March, 1896.



FIRST METHODIST MEETING HOUSE AND PARSONAGE.





country. In so far as the teachings of George Whitfield were *preparatory* to Methodist ideas, the beginning was very early; for that powerful exhorter preached to a great multitude assembled, so it is said, under the ample shelter of the great elm which stood, until a few years since, in the south central portion of Broad St. This was in October, 1740, when he was journeying from Northhampton to New Haven.

But it was reserved for a Virginian, Jesse Lee, who was then travelling through the State, in company with a younger preacher, Rev. Daniel Smith, to preach, fifty years later, the first distinctively Methodist sermon in Wethersfield. This was March 14th, 1790. Mr. Lee preached in the North Brick School House, and his Diary records (as quoted in Stevens' *Hist. of Methodism*, II, 444), that his hearers "sincerely felt" what he said, and that tears ran down from their eyes. This was some two and a half years after he had formed the first Methodist "Class" in New England;<sup>1</sup> namely at Stratford, Conn. The Rev. Geo. L. Coburn, a former pastor of the Methodist Church at this place, recently prepared a "Historical Sketch of the Wethersfield Meth. Epis. Church," from which we have obtained most of the facts set down in this connection.

The noted Maryland preacher, Rev. Freeborn Garrettson, preached in Wethersfield on the 18th of July, in the same year.<sup>2</sup> And other itinerants came from time to time, until 1821, when a "circuit," comprising Wethersfield, Newington, New Britain and Kensington, was formed. Like the Baptists, the Methodists held their first services in the North Brick School-house. The Rev. William S. Pease ("Billy" Pease) was assigned to take the charge of this first circuit, it being included in the New York East District of the N. E. Southern Conference. In 1824, Rocky Hill, among others, was added to the circuit; and in 1832, West Rocky Hill. Mr. Pease, after two years' service in Wethersfield, was followed in the spring of 1823, by Rev. John Lucky, and he, in spring of 1824, by Rev. Smith Dayton.

For some years prior to 1824, services were held in the Academy Hall. There are those living who remember the excitement consequent upon the grant of permission to use the Hall for such a purpose.

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<sup>1</sup> In May, 1791, according to a memorandum by Pres. Stiles (*Diary*, III 418) there were only three Methodist classes in Connecticut, viz. at East Hartford, Cornwall and Waterbury. He adds: "At the 2 first they have had the Sacrament of Lord's Supper. At Cornwall they invited every one present to partake, and actually gave the Communion to one person who had never been baptized."

<sup>2</sup> Being in Hartford, "he rode to Weth. and preached at eleven and two o'clock and then returned to the city, where he preached at five o'clock. Rev. Mr. Coburn's *Hist. Sketch of M. E. Ch. in Weth.* 1882, p. 8.

The building was closed against ingress; the lights were removed, and, on one occasion at least, it was necessary for a magistrate to appear upon the scene, and "read the riot-act."<sup>1</sup> We are sorry to record our belief that bigotry had much to do with this discreditable conduct; but we are happy also to say that all trace of intolerance by any protestant sect toward another, in this township, has long since passed away.

On the 11th of April, 1824, the corner-stone of the first Methodist Church edifice in Wethersfield was laid. This stone was marked with the above date, but contained no cavity for the reception of the usual deposits. The long clapboarded structure was built upon a tract of one-fourth acre, on which was standing the old-fashioned one-story dwelling house demolished in 1882. The latter is supposed by Mr. Coburn to have been built in 1786; but we think it much more probable that it was *removed* to its site at that time. The removal of houses from one place to another in Wethersfield has been so common an occurrence as to lead some one to say that it was "the place where they build old houses." And the appearance of the house in question is indicative of its having been built at a much earlier date than 1786.

The original vote for the erection of the church was passed at the Second Quarterly Conference, Sept. 29th, 1821; a committee consisting of Joseph C. Dolittle, Richard Cowles and Oliver Weldon being appointed for the purpose. The Board of Trustees of the Society, in 1824, consisted of Chauncey Welles, George Coleman, William Barrett, Walter Warner, John Wheeler, Erastus Deming, Stephen Barrett, John Larkin and Oliver Wolcott, all of Wethersfield, and all now deceased. The timber of the new building was contributed by different people, and much of the material and labor was thus supplied. For a long time "rude seats were formed by placing planks across the timbers, upon which the worshipers sat while their feet rested upon the ground." Until 1846, the pulpit stood in the front, or west end of the church; but at this time, it was placed at the opposite end, and the pews were turned around. Other internal improvements were made this time and also in 1877. For a time, the old house, already referred to was used as a parsonage, but for many years prior to 1882, it was leased as a dwelling-house.

In October, 1880, the Society took action looking to the complete rebuilding of the old structure. Under the direction of the pastor, as-

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<sup>1</sup> It was on this occasion that when the officer ordered the people away under penalty of the law, Mr. Pease, holding the only candle in the hall, boldly replied: "We have not come here for any riot, but to serve the living God; let us pray."—and the meeting proceeded. *Hist.* p. 9.

sisted by A. S. Brainard and Albro Morgan, plans were procured, and money raised (the latter by subscription) sufficient to defray the expenses, about \$2,500. The principal donors to this fund were William Boardman, of Hartford, Conn., and Henry H. Dickinson, of Brooklyn, N. Y., both natives of Wethersfield. Besides completely remodelling the building, it was removed a few feet to the rear, an addition made at the east end, a tower in the front, a basement formed under the whole, and the old parsonage removed. The work was completed in August, 1882, and a re-dedication took place September following.

We give herewith, taken from Mr. Coburn's Sketch, the names of the pastors of this church, with the dates of their respective pastorates:

1821-2, Rev. Wm. S. Pease and Robert Seney; 1823, John Lucky; 1824, Smith Dayton; 1825-6, J. Z. Nichols and S. L. Stillman; 1827, Eli Deniston; 1828, John Parker; 1829, Valentine Buck; 1830, Lyman A. Sanford; 1831, L. C. Cheney; 1832, Leman Andrews; 1833-4, E. L. Griswold (afterward Presiding Elder of New Haven District) and ———— Stone; 1835, Daniel Burroughs; 1836, Z. N. Lewis; 1837, Gad. N. Smith; 1838-9, Leonidas Rosser; 1840, H. Husted; 1841, Laban Clark; 1842-3, Sylvester H. Clark; 1844-5, Wm. F. Stillman; 1846, Miles N. Olmstead; 1847, Nathaniel Kellogg; 1848, David Miller; 1849-50, James T. Bell; 1851, R. D. Kirby; 1852-3, ————; 1854, Johnson G. Griswold; 1855, Charles C. Burr and ———— Stockes; 1856, Charles K. True; 1857, ————; 1858-9, Raphael Gilbert; 1860, Isaac Sanford; 1861, James Garrett; 1862, D. C. Hughes; 1863, B. Whitman Chase; 1864-5, G. P. Ellsworth and J. G. Griswold; 1866, Salmon Jones; 1867, Geo. E. Reed and E. McChesney; 1868, George E. Reed and ———— Richards; 1869, A. Palmer and George Woodruff; 1870, Perry Chandler; 1871, Joseph B. Shepherd; 1872, James Nixon; 1873-4, Chas. H. Hemstreet; 1875, A. O. Abbott; 1876, Albert Nash; 1877, C. J. North; 1878, Joseph B. Shepherd; 1879, David Nash; 1880-3, Geo. L. Coburn; April, 1883, T. S. Townsend; April, 1884, Daniel Brown; April, 1885, Harvey H. Paine; April, 1886, J. A. Cole; April, 1887, F. W. Hannon; April, 1890, Theodore S. Henderson; April, 1891, Benjamin F. Meredith; April, 1893, E. B. Singer; April, 1895, for one month, W. Green; May, 1895, J. H. Fairchild; April, 1896, J. R. Henry; April, 1897, Alfred L. Hubbard; April, 1899, George L. Coburn; April, 1901, Ralph Wells Keeler, present incumbent.

Under Mr. Coburn's ministry, in 1880, a determined movement was made towards replacing the old church edifice with a new and better one; and by the strenuous exertions of an active pastor and a financially



weak congregation, aided by the cordial good feeling and material help offered by their Congregational brethren, the present elegant building known as "the Boardman Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church," was provided and completed in 1882. During the rebuilding, the congregation worshipped in the Baptist Church, on invitation of that congregation—a strong contrast in the way of Christian charity, to the five months' imprisonment endured 145 years before by the first Baptist representatives in Wethersfield, the Rev. Ebenezer Frothingham.—See p. —, *ante*.

*Episcopalians.*—In 1729, the Rev. Samuel Johnson, who was afterwards President of Kings College (now known as Columbia University), New York City, and who five years previously had become the rector of the first Church of England in the Colony, at Stratford, Conn., made a visit to Westerly, R. I., and to New London and Wethersfield, in Connecticut, for the purpose of establishing Episcopal Churches at those places, but his efforts were nearly fruitless.

The earliest organized Society of Protestant Episcopalians in Wethersfield, was in the Newington section, in 1797, where a church edifice was erected by its members in the south end of that parish; but the society—which was the outcome of dissensions in the Congregational Church there—soon became divided against itself, was disorganized and its edifice sold and demolished. See Chapter on *Newington*.

In 1840 or '41, the Rev. (later Bishop) John Williams, then a young man connected with Washington (now Trinity) College at Hartford, preached a single sermon at Wethersfield. But it was not until over a quarter of a century later, Nov., 1866, that the Rev. Henry W. Nelson, then rector of the Church of the Good Shephard, at Hartford, conferred with some of the people of Wethersfield as to the advisability of establishing an Episcopal Church here. There was, however, at that time, some want of harmony in the Congregational Church, on account of the recent dismissal of its pastor, and Christian courtesy decided that it would be unkind to introduce this new element of discussion, just then. A little later, however, 12 January, 1868, services were inaugurated at Academy Hall, at which about 120 persons were present.

At the second one, held two weeks later, 155 were present; Rector Nelson officiating in both cases. On June 14th, Bishop Williams preached. From this time until July, services were held every other week; thereafter, weekly. On Trinity Sunday, 1869, Bishop Williams administered the rite of confirmation to a class of eight persons. On



THE BOARDMAN M. E. CHAPEL, WETHERSFIELD, CONN.

1324. Rebuilt 1882.



Sunday, June 20th, 1869, Mr. John H. Watson, then a student at Berkeley Divinity School, but afterward Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, at Hartford, began a regular morning service. The next Sunday a Sunday School was organized. On the 8th of August, the Sacrament of the Holy Communion was administered for the first time, by Rev. Mr. Nelson.

The form for organizing the parish was signed at the House of the late Henry C. Dwight, Oct. 5th, 1869. The officers, being the first for the mission and parish, were: Austin Robertson, Clerk; F. T. Chapman, Warden; Sam. W. Goodrich, Horace Robbins, and A. E. Warner, Vestrymen; Stephen Bulkley, Treasurer. The new parish was called "Trinity Church Parish." A committee, consisting of Mr. Chapman, Mr. Bulkley and George Smith, reported to a meeting held Oct. 27th, 1869, in favor of purchasing the lot on which the church stands and a vote then passed to purchase it.

On Advent Sunday, Nov. 28th, 1869, Mr. Frank L. Norton, then a member of the Divinity School at Middletown, but now Rector of St. John's Church, Troy, N. Y., began work in the parish, under Rector Nelson's direction. On the 15th of June, 1870, the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Connecticut, at Hartford, formally received the parish into union with the Diocese; Mr. Chapman being the delegate.

On June 1st, 1871, the corner-stone of the church was laid, with the usual imposing and impressive ceremonies. The financial crisis shortly intervened, and prevented continuance of the work of construction, until September, 1872. In 1871, Mr. Barnwell was lay reader for a time; in 1872, Mr. S. J. Kent had charge of the morning services; Mr. Morrison and Mr. Wm. P. Nichols also read services. From the summer of 1873, until Easter, 1874, Mr. R. M. Edwards was the reader.

On Sunday, Dec. 21st, 1873, the new building of Portland Red sandstone was occupied for the first time, the Bishop being present. From Easter, 1874, to May, 1875, the Rev. Francis Goodwin, of Hartford, was in charge. The consecration of the new edifice, by Bishop Williams, occurred Thursday, Oct. 1st, 1874; Bishop Doane, of Albany, and several clergymen, being present. At Easter, 1875, the baptismal font and communion service were presented by members of the parish.

The parish remained under the rectorship of the Rev. Mr. Nelson until April, 1875, when a resident rector was determined upon, and the Rev. Howard S. Clapp, of Hartford, invited for a year, held his first service May 30th, 1875. In the summer of that year a Sunday



School Library was contributed by a member. A bell was procured and hung in Oct., 1875, its weight being 800 lbs. In the month of December, seats were put in, Dr. Gurdon W. Russell, of Hartford, contributing \$100 for the purpose. At the annual meeting of the Society, in April, 1876, the Rev. Howard Clapp was elected to be the rector of the parish. In 1877, a formal conveyance of the church property was made, by the Rev. Mr. Nelson, to the Society for Donations and Bequests of the Diocese, in trust, for the use of Trinity Parish. The final indebtedness of \$500 was cleared off in the same year.

Rev. Mr. Clapp's ministry closed 29 Apr., 1883. He was succeeded by Rev. Henry A. Adams, from 13 May, 1883, to 26 Apr., 1885; by Rev. Benjamin S. Sanderson, 5 July, 1885, to 8 Oct., 1886; Wm. W. Bellinger, 1 Oct. 1886, to 25 Aug., 1889; Rev. Louis A. Lamphier, 2 Feb., 1890, to 28 Sept., 1892; Rev. Herman Lillienthal, Apr. 16, 1893, to 30 May, 1900; Rev. Karl Reiland, May, 1901, present incumbent.

In 1877, the number of communicants was 112; the number from the beginning had amounted to 162. The parish is in a more prosperous condition than ever and has erected a conference building or guild-house just north of the church lot; and, during the past year a memorial transcript has been given to the church, by Mrs. Henry Buck, and others.

*The Roman Catholic* is the fourth denomination in this religious field. The advent of Irish people, mostly laborers, to this place, had introduced the Catholic element to a limited extent, as early, perhaps, as 1850. Those who attended church were in the habit of journeying to St. Patrick's Church, at Hartford; some traveling from Rocky Hill for that purpose. In 1860, St. Peter's Church having been established in the south part of Hartford, the drift of the church-goers became mostly turned in the direction of that edifice, at least to attend masses. This was the usual course until 1876, when, under the direction of Rev. Lawrence Walsh, then the priest in charge of St. Peter's Church—the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was organized in Wethersfield. Masses were said in private houses at first, but very shortly the use of Academy Hall was obtained for the purpose. During Father Lynch's pastorate, a handsome parochial residence was erected; and the church (which previously had been a mission of the East Hartford parish) was incorporated, October, 1876.

In 1880, land having been bought for the purpose several years previously, sufficient funds had been raised to warrant the erection of a house of worship. The project was looked upon with favor by the

citizens generally and many of them contributed toward the cost of it. The result was the modest, but tasteful wooden structure now used, the corner-stone of which was laid October 31st, 1880, by the Rt. Rev. Lawrence McMahon, Bishop of Hartford. The edifice was completed in May, 1881, and dedicated on the 29th of the same month; being 51 years after the dedication of Holy Trinity Church in Hartford, the first Catholic Church in this State. This church promises to endure and flourish prosperously. The following persons have officiated as its pastors: Rev. John F. Lenihan, Oct. 7, 1883, to Aug. 13, 1893; Rev. James J. Smith, Aug. 20 1893, to Aug. 22, 1897; Rev. John T. Lynch, Sept. 5, 1897, to Sept. 16, 1900; Rev. Jeremiah J. Duggan, Sept. 23, 1900, present incumbent. A fine parish-house was erected a few years ago, just east of the church building.

In 1897, a congregation, known as the *Christian Union Church*, was organized, and for about three years held services in the old Academy building, A. J. Culver acting as "pastor." They published a monthly organ, *The Christian Union*, from January, 1898, to February, 1899, inclusive, and soon thereafter the services were discontinued and the "church" disbanded.

*The Great Swamp (Kensington) Parish, 1705.*—In 1705, the General Assembly authorized the formation of Great Swamp parish, out of that part of Farmington east of the Blow Mountains, and to extend north as far as William Judd's; now in Berlin and New Britain. On Christian Lane, just over the then west line of Wethersfield—a meeting house was built, probably in 1709, for this parish. William Blinn, of Wethersfield, was the builder; and its first minister, the Rev. William Burnham, was from Wethersfield. He was settled in 1712. In 1715, Beckley Quarter, in Wethersfield, was annexed to this parish; and, on the other hand, Stanley Quarter, in Farmington, was annexed to the West (Newington) Society of Wethersfield. In 1721, the name of the parish was changed to Kensington. In 1733, the meeting house on Christian Lane was abandoned for a new one, built by the constable and a committee under an order of the General Assembly, after a long and furious contest as to the site; the new site being in what is now Kensington Village. This led to the division of the parish, in 1754, and as a result, New Britain parish was at that time formed and made to include Stanley Quarter. Again, in 1772, Kensington parish was aparted and the eastern division, which included the Wethersfield and Middletown sections of Kensington—was named Worthington. This latter was enlarged, in 1794, by the addition of a

section from the south end of Newington. The Rev. Samuel Goodrich, son of Rev. Elizur Goodrich, first preached in it; but the Rev. Nathan Fenn was its first *settled* minister.

In 1774, Worthington parish built a meeting house; placing one-half of it on land in Wethersfield, at Beckley's Quarter, on a ten-rod highway, laid out by Wethersfield, in 1717. It was next to the Middletown north line. In 1778, Wethersfield released its interest in a tract of 5ac. 2r. and 10 rods of land in this highway, to Worthington parish, for the benefit of this church. In 1851, this building was converted to a town hall, for Berlin; a new church edifice having been completed in its stead. And so ends our account of the ecclesiastical out-growths from the ancient and lonely meeting house in Christian Lane.

We here append the Inscriptions of the *Christian Lane Burial Ground*, furnished us by the courtesy of Mr. E. S. TILLOTSON, of Wethersfield, and which are not included in his valuable *Wethersfield Inscriptions*; having been copied by him after the publication of that volume.

[“CHRISTIAN LANE” CEMETERY.—Originally “Great Swamp Parish,” Farmington, now “Kensington Parish,” Berlin.

Henry, son Capt. John & Ruth Allyn, d. June 27, 1774, Æ. 2 yrs. & 4 mos. Daniel Andrus, d. Aug. 21, 1748, Æ. 75. Moses, son of Moses & Lydia Andrus, d. Nov. 30, 1753, Æ. 1. Barbara, wife George Arthur, d. April 4, 1861, Æ. 29. Barbara, dau. George & Barbara Arthur, d. Sept. 28, 1861, Æ. 6 mos.

Mary, wife Lieut. Joseph Beckley, d. April 16, 1750, Æ. 48. Robert Booth, d. Dec. 17, 1750, Æ. 60. Dorcas, wife Timothy Bronson, d. April 30, 1747, Æ. 42. Samuel Bronson, d. Jan. 23, 1741-2, Æ. 76. Sarah, wife Samuel Bronson, d. Oct. 25, 1741, Æ. 75. Hannah, wife Rev. Wm. Burnham, d. Mch. 16, 1747/8, Æ. 63. Ruth, wife Josiah Burnham, d. June 28, 1762, Æ. 38. Ruth, relict Capt. Wm. Burnham, d. June 28, 1786, Æ. 75. Sarah, dau. Rev. Wm. Burnham, d. Nov. 23, 1726, Æ. 7. Rev. William Burnham, First Pastor of the Church at Kensington (Berlin), d. Sept. 23, 1750, in the 66th year of his age, and 38th of his ministry. Capt. Wm. Burnham, d. March 12, 1748-9, Æ. 41.

Elizabeth, dau. John Cole, d. Oct. 17, 1743, Æ. 5. Elizabeth, wife Nathaniel Cole, d. June 19, 1749, Æ. 71. Ezekiel, son John Cole, d. Sept. 28, 1743, Æ. 1. Nathaniel Cole, d. June 20, 1743, Æ. 65. Sarah, wife of Nathaniel Cole, d. Oct. 10, 1751, Æ. 34. Giles Colvin, d. Mch. 31, 1815, Æ. 34. Carpenter, son of Giles & Nancy Colvin, d. July 8, 1817, Æ. 7.

Dinah, wife of Jacob Deming, d. Oct. 3, 1751, *Æ.* 69. Gideon, son of Joseph & Martha Deming, d. Nov. 10, 1748, *Æ.* 4 yrs. & 6 mos. Martha, wife of Joseph Deming, d. Nov. 26, 1748, *Æ.* 32. Moses Deming, d. Jan. 16, 1795, *Æ.* 74 yrs. & 4 mos. Sarah Deming, d. Dec. 25, 1809, *Æ.* 83. Lucy, dau. of Daniel Dewey, d. Oct. 22, 1748; *Æ.* 5 yrs. & 11 mos. Rhoda, dau. of Daniel Dewey, d. Oct. 15, 1748, *Æ.* 11 yrs. & 10 mos.

Abel Ellis, d. July 3, 1816, *Æ.* 60. Thankful, relict of Abel Ellis, d. Jan. 27, 1829, *Æ.* 76.

Anne, wife of Samuel Galpin, d. Aug. 26, 1743, *Æ.* 55. Joseph, son of Samuel & Anne Galpin, d. Aug. 31, 1743, *Æ.* 18. Mary, dau. of Samuel & Anne Galpin, d. Nov. 5, 1742, *Æ.* 15. Mercy, dau. of Ensign Samuel & Anne Galpin, d. Dec. 1, 1742, *Æ.* 15. Adelaide, dau. of William & Emily Gilbert, b. Aug. 23, 1861; d. Feb. 3, 1875. Bathsheba J., dau. of Hooker & Candace, Gilbert, d. July 26, 1807, *Æ.* 22. Candace Gilbert, widow of Solomon Churchill, d. June 9, 1835, *Æ.* 45. Bathsheba, dau. of Moses & Renea Gilbert, d. Sept. 5, 1823, *Æ.* 8. Caroline, wife of Aaron B. Gilbert, d. Sept. 18, 1854, *Æ.* 34. Chloe S. Gilbert, d. March 13, 1867, *Æ.* 78. David S. Gilbert, d. Nov. 23, 1864, *Æ.* 64. Almira, wife of David S. Gilbert, d. Dec. 5, 1856, *Æ.* 55. George, son of Samuel H. & Lois Gilbert, d. Sept. 27, 1828, *Æ.* 3. Hooker Gilbert, d. Dec. 6, 1840, *Æ.* 89. Candace Sage, 1st wife of Hooker Gilbert, d. May 15, 1805, *Æ.* 51. Idell Gilbert, d. Dec. 11, 1885, *Æ.* 23. Joseph Gilbert, d. May 8, 1784, *Æ.* 26. Mary, wife of Joseph Gilbert, d. April 25, 1859, *Æ.* 98. Miss Lydia, only "offspring" of Joseph & Mary Gilbert, d. Oct. 4, 1802, *Æ.* 19 yrs. & 10 mos. Maria S. Gilbert, d. July 21, 1893, *Æ.* 81. Moses Gilbert, b. March 7, 1793; d. Aug. 30, 1882. Renea Steele, wife of Moses Gilbert, 2nd, d. Feb. 28, 1862, *Æ.* 68. Samuel H. Gilbert, d. July 30, 1868, *Æ.* 81. Lois, wife of Samuel H. Gilbert, d. Sept. 20, 1870, *Æ.* 81. Sarah, wife of Hooker Gilbert, d. Dec. 4, 1840, *Æ.* 79. Walter, son of Moses 2d & Renea Gilbert, d. July 20, 1825, *Æ.* 7. John Goodrich, b. May 19, 1776; d. May 6, 1858. John Goodrich, d. April 26, 1816, *Æ.* 79. Hannah, wife of John Goodrich, d. Sept. 15, 1812, *Æ.* 72. John Goodrich, d. May 6, 1858, *Æ.* 82. Martha H., dau. John & Ruth Goodrich, d. Sept. 7, 1823, *Æ.* 5. Ruth Beckley, wife John Goodrich, d. Jan. 16, 1849, *Æ.* 71.

Asahel, son Samuel Hart, d. Oct. —, 1730(?), *Æ.* 10. Judah, son Judah Hart, d. Nov. 3, 1745, *Æ.* 8. Lois, dau. Matthew Hart, d. Oct. 11, 1736, *Æ.* 6. Mary, wife Dea. Thomas Hart, d. Oct. —, 1763, *Æ.*



82. Mary, wife Selah Hart, Esq., d. Jan. 27, 1763, Æ. 30. Matthew, son of Capt. John Hart, d. Oct. 3, 1736, Æ. 37. Mercy, dau. T. Hart, d. Nov. 8, 1726, Æ. 3. Ruth, dau. Matthew & Sarah Hart, d. Jan. 5, 1741, Æ. 14. Elizabeth, only dau. Dea. Ebenezer & Elizabeth Hart, d. Nov. 5, 1776, Æ. 20 yrs. and 5 mos.

Mary W., wife Horace Haskell, and dau. John and Ruth Goodrich, d. Jan. 2, 1834, Æ. 26. Infant, son Mary W. and Horace Haskell, d. Oct. & d. Dec. 18, 1833. John, son John & Elizabeth, Hinsdale, d. Oct. 13, 1743, Æ. 9. John C. Hoeckh, d. Aug. 9, 1867, Æ. 64 yrs. & 9 mos. Catherine, wife John C. Hoeckh, d. Feb. 10, 1872, Æ. 73. John Hooker, Esq., d. Aug. 3, 1766, Æ. 71 yrs. & 5 mos. Lydia, dau Samuel, Jr., & Sarah Hooker, d. March 16, 1774, Æ. 9. Mary, wife Samuel Hooker, d. Mch. 9, 1771, Æ. 82. Samuel Hooker, d. Mch. 1, 1787, Æ. 91. Samuel Hooker, d. Mch. 27, 1807, Æ. 81. Sarah, widow Samuel Hooker, d. May 7, 1809, Æ. 76. Sarah, youngest dau. Samuel & Sarah Hooker, & wife of Hooker Gilbert, d. ———. Seth Hooker, d. Dec. 10, 1758, Æ. 27. Bildad, son Samuel & Sarah Hurlbut, d. Oct. 28, 1741, Æ. 4. Jesse, son Samuel & Sarah Hurlbut, d. Nov. 13, (?) 1741, Æ. 2.

Elizabeth, wife of Lieut. Samuel Lankton, d. Oct. 11, 1750, Æ. 50. Dea. Jonathan Lee, d. Jan. 16, 1758, Æ. 71. Capt. Stephen Lee, "One of y<sup>e</sup> First Settlers of y<sup>e</sup> society & Churc<sup>h</sup> of Christ in Kensington," d. June 7, 1753, Æ. 86. Louis, son Paul & Magdalen Leppert, d. Feb. 12, 1873, Æ. 10 mos. Magdalen, wife Paul Leppert, d. Sept. 7, 1896, Æ. 65 yrs., 1 month, 16 days. Paul Leppert, d. Sept. 16, 1884, Æ. 63 yrs. William, son Paul & Magdalen Leppert, d. Jan. 16, 1874, Æ. 16 yrs. 3 mos.

Ann, wife John, Norton, d. Sept. 12, 1752, Æ. 64. Gideon Norton, d. Mch. 26, 1742, Æ. 28. Ens. Isaac Norton, d. Sept. 4, 1751, Æ. 38. John Norton, d. Sept. 11, 1752, Æ. 69. Rebecca, wife Charles Norton, d. Mch. 5, 1748, Æ. 34.

Dr. Abel Peck, d. Sept. 19, 1742, Æ. 24. Abigail, wife Samuel Peck, d. Oct. 28, 1742, Æ. 61. Rhoda, dau. Moses Peck, d. April 3, 1734, Æ. 3 mos. Sybil Porter, dau. Amos & Sybil Porter, d. Aug. 30, 1741, Æ. 2 yrs. 6 mos.

Ambrose, son Amos & Orpha Root, d. Mch. 14, 1848, Æ. 13 yrs. 6 mos. 17 days. Henry J., son of Amos & Orpha Root, b. Mch. 7, & d. Dec. 28, 1849. Asabel Root, d. Aug. 7, 1833, Æ. 40; "His father Asabel, grandfather John, & his great-grandfather John Root rest near this spot." George, son John & Mary Root, d. Dec. 25, 1803, Æ. 14 mos. George Root, b. May 15, 1805; d. Oct. 22, 1831. John

Root, d. Nov. 16, 1764, Æ. 79. John Root, b. April 4, 1764; d. Aug. 27, 1827. Joseph Root, d. Oct. 15, 1742, Æ. 55(?). Joseph, son Joseph Root, d. May 29, 1748, Æ. 27. Margaret, wife John Root, d. Æ. 60. Mary, wife John Root, d. Sept. 18, 1823, Æ. 54. Samuel, son Joseph Root, d. Oct. 17, 1747, Æ. 31. Timothy Root, d. Jan. 10, 1864, Æ. 54.

Benoni Sage, d. Jan. 12, 1733-4, Æ. 30. Stephen Saulter, d. May 7, 1892, Æ. 76 yrs. 3 mos. Maria Dorothea, wife Stephen Saulter, d. Aug. 18, 1857, Æ. 27. Katharina, 2d wife of Stephen Saulter, d. July 17, 1872, Æ. 36 yrs. 5 mos. Samuel Smith, d. April 30, 1735, Æ. 60. John Stanley, d. Sept. 8, 1748, Æ. 65. Mary, widow John Stanley, d. Aug., 17, 1752, Æ. 62. Eleanor, eldest dau. Luke & Sarah Stebbins, d. May 4, 1771, Æ. 14 yrs. & 9 mos. Erected by her great-grandfather, Samuel Thompson. Sarah wife Luke Stebbins, d. Feb. 18, 1764, Æ. 26 yrs. 9 mos.

Samuel Thompson, d. Nov. (?) 25, 1773, Æ. 84. Stephen Thompson, d. Mch. 13, 1737, Æ. 10.

Dr. Nathaniel Winchil, d. Feb. 21, 1768, Æ. 41.—*H. R. S.*]

The *Stepney* and *Newington* Churches, offshoots of the First Church of Wethersfield, have their histories fully given in the chapters on *Rocky Hill* and *Newington*, in this volume.

## CHAPTER XIV.

*Agriculture—Horses and Cattle—Stock Breeding—Fairs, Etc., Etc.*

[By SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ.]

THERE ARE indications that John Oldham, the Discoverer, sowed wheat, or rye, in Wethersfield, in 1634. After his murder, in July, 1636, the General Court directed John Raynor to preserve Mr. Oldham's "corne" (grain) "as he hath hitherto done." From this, it appears that Raynor had looked after Oldham's grain the previous season (which is reasonable, in view of the fact that Oldham was a mariner) and, if so, it is nearly certain that Oldham had harvested a crop in 1635, which must have been sown during the previous autumn.

*Maize* (Indian corn), and "*Indian Beans*," of the low sort, sown broadcast in the fields were probably indigenous and were found cultivated by the Indians at the time of the white man's arrival here. These beans were what we know as *Kidney Beans* (*Phascolus Vulgaris*), not, as some have supposed, the *Seiva* bean of to-day. In the Pequot Campaign, May 1637, Wethersfield was required by the General Court to furnish "1 bushel of Indian Beans" to the Commissary department, which is the first mention of beans, of any kind, in our Colonial Records. At a meeting of the Meadow Proprietors, 12 Oct., 1719, a by-law was passed, fining those who did not clear off *smut* from Indian corn in the meadows, in the sum of 2s.—*W. T.*, Vol. II.

*Barley* was grown here within the memory of persons now living. Its earliest mention in connection with the town is in a Town-vote, 16 March, 1646, providing that Richard Belden should receive one-fourth of his pay, as Town-herder, in "barley." Probably it was mostly used in making malt, for the manufacture of beer, then an article of general consumption. In the Rev. Henry Smith's inventory, 1648, his "maulte" (quantity not stated) was appraised at £2, 8s. Malt seems to have been made soon after 1640.

*Peas* were one of the staple crops from the beginning of the settlement.

*The Onion*, as is well known, has been a staple crop here for very many years; the "Wethersfield Large Red" being recognized as a dis-

tinative and favorite variety. As early as 1710, Benjamin Adams sold 71 bushels of these bulbs to Dr. James Poisson. In later years some experiments have been made in the culture of the "top onion," whose small bulbs grow at the top of the flower stalk; also, with the "potato onion," the bulbs of which are held together at the roots. Neither of these have proven profitable. "Rare-ripes" are the smallest, culled from the first year's growth, and set the *next season*; when, by breaking off the seed stalks, they are made to ripen early and are largely increased in size. The practice has been to bunch the onion for the market, on ropes of straw; the bunches weighing from 2 to 2½ pounds each. Of late years, a large proportion of the largest onions, have been shipped in barrels, being sold by the bushel. Nearly all are sent to the New York market; and the culture of the crop was once done mainly by women and boys, but the spectacle of women in the onion fields, is now an unusual sight. The Rev. Samuel Peters, the unveracious author of a (satirical) *History of Connecticut* (London, 1781), says: "It is a rule with parents to buy, annually, a silk gown for each daughter above the age of seven years, till she is married. The young beauty is obliged, in return, to weed a patch of onions with her own hands." This is about as true as his other statement that the township is ten miles square (making it to contain, at that time, about 100 square miles, instead of 36), and that "the people are more gay than polite."<sup>1</sup>

Closely connected with onion culture, is that of the *garlic*, which member of the leek family has been cultivated in Wethersfield for many years. The product is shipped to New York, whence it is nearly all exported to the West Indies and South America. The bulbs are bunched by the roots, instead of the tops, as is the case with onions; the ropes weighing about a pound each.

*Broom Corn* (introduced into America, in 1781, by Dr. Benjamin Franklin, who found a single seed in a whisk made perhaps in the East Indies, where the plant is native) was early cultivated here. It was a Wethersfield man, LEVI DICKINSON of Stepney parish, who in 1797, is said to have made the first broom from this plant; Indian or *splint* brooms having been previously used, indeed as late as 1800, The shape of the new *corn* broom was, at first, round like that of the old "birch broom." Dickinson's manufacture was probably commenced at Hadley, Mass., whither he had removed, although it may have been before he left Wethersfield; and as he commenced to cultivate the plant at the same time, and made frequent visits to his native town,

<sup>1</sup> As to the onion culture, see also Chapter XIX, on Rocky Hill.



it is quite likely that broom corn culture was introduced into Wethersfield at about the same time. It soon became an important industry here and in other Connecticut Valley towns. In 1845, three establishments at Rocky Hill manufactured 5,500 brooms; and large crops were grown here as late as 25 years ago—the manufacture being now extended to whips and brushes. In 1859, Arnold & Robbins at Rocky Hill were engaged in this manufacture.

*Teasels* were probably cultivated here from near the early part of the present century—soon after cloth-dressing became an important industry of the town—but their use and sale were not confined to the local “clothiers;” for woolen mills in various parts of the State became a market for these natural wool-cards.

*Flax-seed*, in the last century, was also extensively raised in Weth. In the *Life and Works of John Adams*, Vol. II, p. 341-342, we find the following note by the President. “At Hartford, 15 Aug., 1774, Mr. Deane [Silas] says: “There are 30,000 bushels of flax-seed sent to New York yearly, in exchange for salt.”

*Apples.* JOHN HOLLISTER’s will, Apl. 3d, 1665, gives to his oldest son John, his “feather Bed at Nayog;” also, to his widow, “20 bushels *Apples* and 2 barrels Cider per year, to be furnished by my son John.” John Harrison’s estate, inventoried Aug. 3, 1666, included apples, and *hops*, value £5.

The raising of *Garden Seeds* was commenced by JAMES LOCKWOOD BELDEN, in 1830, and still continues to be an important industry in the town. Butler N. Strong & Co., Johnson, Robbins & Co. (both firms now no longer in business); Comstock, Ferre & Co.; Thomas Griswold & Co., and William Meggatt have been the most notable firms in this line. Hart, Welles & Co. are a later addition to the Wethersfield firms engaged in this business.

WM. G. COMSTOCK, though not a native of Weth. was, for a part of his life, so identified by residence and business interests with the town, as to deserve a notice in connection with the seed business. Born at Chatham, Ct., 11 Oct., 1810, he was the son of Judge Franklin G. Comstock author of a well-known *Digest on the Settlement of Estates*; lived at C. until 10 years of age, when his father rem. to E. Hampton, Ct.; was educated at Midd. and when about 18, began school teaching. In 1833, the family removed to Htfd. where his father had become part owner and editor of the *N. Eng. Review*, and, as exchange editor and bookkeeper, young Comstock displayed much energy and enterprise in the conduct of his father’s paper. Just previous to this time his father became greatly interested in the raising of mulberry trees for

the culture of cocoons for silk, and turned his interest in the newspaper over to his son. In 1836, after having sold out the paper to be run as a whig political organ, the family moved from Hartford to Wethersfield, and Mr. Comstock joined his father in the cocoon business. In 1837 Mr. Comstock published what was known as the *Silk Culturist* and dealt in mulberry seeds and trees. The following year he bought out the seed business of James L. Belden of Wethersfield and took in Butler N. Strong of East Hampton as partner, the business being done under Mr. Comstock's name. In the winter of that year he went to Cuba, taking with him a lot of young mulberry trees.

He purchased a plot of ground at Matanzas and set out the young trees. He found two other men in the same business, and the three shared the profits. One man, a Spaniard, accepted an offer of \$500 for his entire lot of trees. Mr. Comstock shipped them to his father, who sold them for \$2,500. Upon his return from Cuba Mr. Comstock continued to deal in the seeds and trees, but in a short time started in the business of making "borders" for seed bags, which at that time was a new invention. He also, with his father, went into the business of making seed-boxes, and continued it until his father's death, when the business was divided and a stock company organized. In the mulberry tree and seed business Mr. Comstock was able to amass what in those days was considered a large fortune. The capital stock of the company was \$40,000. There were three stockholders and Mr. Comstock lent the money to the other two. The company had a large trade in the South, and soon extended its agencies to the West. The stock paid a dividend of 6 per cent. the first year and 10 per cent. every six months afterwards. In 1857, Mr. Comstock went to East Hartford and bought the old Olmsted place on North Main street for \$7,000, after having sold out most of his box stock. He died at E. H., a few years ago, greatly respected. In June, 1839, Mr. S. B. Goodwin had a mulberry plantation of a thousand trees.

*Potatoes*, and other tubers are grown here in great abundance.

*Carrots* are mostly sown and grown with onions. Market gardening is carried on somewhat extensively. *Melons* are not grown to any great extent; the *pumpkin* is still common.

Among the *wild* fruits and plants may be mentioned: the large grapes, of the meadows; fox grapes; the choke pear; the meadow plum (now quite scarce); the wild cherry and choke cherry; the barberry (introduced as a hedge-plant); the black currant; the Jerusalem artichoke; asparagus (probably naturalized); and nearly all the wild fruits and nuts found in other parts of the State.

Nearly all the cultivated fruits found in this latitude are grown in Wethersfield. Some of the mulberry (*morus multicaulis*) trees, planted in the days when the silkworm fever was raging, some 68 years ago—still remain.

The sapflower, spikeweed, comfrey, opium-poppy, smallage, rue, wormwood, coriander, thyme, and other plants, which formerly were found in many gardens, have pretty generally disappeared.

*Horses, Cattle, etc.* John Oldham, who was killed in July, 1636, had several. He had sold "two of the mares" to Mr. Thos. Allyn, and the General Court ordered Daniel Finch, then constable at Wethersfield, who, by their order, was collecting together the property and effects of the deceased, to deliver them to Allyn. Probably Oldham's were the first brought into the Colony, in 1634. Some were carried away by the Indians, in the massacre at Wethersfield, in 1637. Three belonging to Leonard Chester's estate, in 1648, were appraised at £27, but two of them were colts. The same year, a horse and mare, property of the Rev. Henry Smith, were appraised at £23.

In 1684, a by-law of the Town punished any person *racing* a horse, "within the towne plott," by a fine of 10s.

Abraham Finch, when killed in 1637, had a cow appraised at £20, and a heifer appraised at £10. It is probable that the pioneers of 1634 brought cows and pigs with them. Indeed, it is probable that all the three River plantations had cattle and swine in the fall of 1635. John Brundish, who died in 1639, had one cow, two heifers and two calves; the whole appraised at £55.

On March 16, 1646-7, the date of the oldest town vote which has been preserved—the town voted to employ Rich. Belden to keep *twelve score* of cows and oxen, at £24; and 2s. for each animal in excess of that number; which shows that cattle were abundant at that date. No doubt the number of young animals was much greater than that of the cows and oxen. Matthew Mitchell's "cow-pen" formed a much debated point of evidence in the famous case of Hollister and Dr. Gershom Bulkeley vs. John Belden's heirs in 1684-5.—See Chapter IV, p. 191.

*Cattle Ear Marks.* These were first required by the law of 1644, but may have been in fact used earlier. The law directed that they be put upon cattle and swine above six months old; the reason being that the cattle of different owners were kept in herds on the "stated commons" and the swine ran together in the woods. Each owner had a particular mark, prescribed by the town, and recorded in the town records. The marks consisted of a "crop," a "slit," a "half-penny," a "swallow-tail," or a "hole," cut in one or both ears, or sometimes a combination of two

of these forms of amputation for the same animal. The same mark was registered for swine as for cattle of the same owner.

These ear-marks were kept in use down to recent times; but, owing probably to the difficulty of contriving new forms of them, the usage in our day is to mark by forming the initials of the owner in the hair of the left hip of the animal, by trimming with shears; or to brand the initials on the horns of the neat cattle.

*Brander, (of Horses).* Such an officer was chosen annually by the town, beginning with 1665, the year in which the law was passed creating the office. The same Act provided that the brand-mark for Weth. should be the letter W. The object was to have a mark which should distinguish the horses which were pastured in herds on "stated commons" in one town, from those similarly herded in other towns.

The brand-mark for Hartford was the letter A; for Middletown B; for Windsor, I; for Farmington, X. These letters were branded on the near buttock of the animal; and in addition to this the initial letter of the surname of the owner was sometimes branded on the near shoulder.

*Herders and Cowkeepers.* These officers were chosen in town meeting. The earliest vote preserved, that of March 16th, 1646-47, is one appointing Richard Belden to have the care of 12 score of cows and oxen from the middle of April to the 11th of November. He was to be paid £24 per annum, to be in wheat, barley, peas and Indian corn; one fourth in value of each.

In May, 1648, four persons were chosen to keep the "towne heard." They were called "cowkeepers." They were to be paid £39 in the aggregate, "within a fourteen nights after Mickeltid." They were authorized to have the assistance of one man on Sundays; and on every alternate Sunday they might employ two assistants. They were to guard the cattle "from danger of wolves, or any other casseltie." During three weeks in the season a hundred of the cattle were to be separated from the others, and herded by themselves, "toward Hartford bounds."

Directions are given for getting the herd together. "They are to goe out within an houre after sunrise, and not to[o] early at night in coming home; and after they com to goe into the mea[dow] two of them is constantly to drive downe & to fetch up the cows at night. They are to eather have a horne to call out cows, or els to holow, so that people may have notice sufficient to put out their cattell to them."

In 1656, one herd was kept "towards Hartford, and the other the other way;" that is below the South Field. In 1660, and again in



1662, there was a north and south herd under charge of two "cow-keepers."

[What a vivid picture of the pastoral life of those early days does this simple official record afford us! The sunset hour ("not too early at night"), the sound of the horns, or of the herdsmen's "hallo," coming to the ear from either end of the broad village street, under the shadow of whose ancient trees slowly homeward pace the "milky mothers of the bosky herd," each cow stopping at her master's gate, where the maids awaited them, pails in hand; and soon, instead of herdsmen's horn or voice, there comes from every homestead the musical ring of the lacteal burden thus brought home from the meadows.—*H. R. S.*]

*Wolves.* These animals were so common as to have been a cause of serious concernment to the farmers. In 1648, the town herders, or "cow-keepers," were particularly enjoined to preserve the cattle "from danger of wolves." In 1676 the town gave a bounty of 12 shillings for each wolf killed, which was in addition to the Colony's bounty of a like sum. In 1685 the town's bounty was reduced to 8 shillings. In 1695 it was raised to 10s. In that year the County Court ordered judgment for Luke Hill to recover 48 shillings from the Selectmen of Glastonbury, for 8 wolves killed by him. In 1698 it was raised to 15s. In 1703 the bounty was voted to be according "as the law directs;" which probably means that the liberal bounties paid had resulted in materially reducing the number of wolves. It was not until some years after the settlement of the town that sheep were introduced; hence, at first, the damage done by wolves was not so great; seeing that only cattle, and perhaps the goats—were the domestic animals destroyed by them.

The wolves were not exterminated entirely. Like the deer and some other fleet-footed wild animals, they departed to the north and west, where their descendants may be found to-day.

*Sheep.* Owing to the number of wolves in our forests, it is not probable that sheep-raising was so commonly carried on in the earliest years of the settlement as the breeding of other domestic animals. The first account of them in Weth., or indeed in this Colony, is of those comprised in the estate of Edward Mason, deceased, in 1640. In the inventory are "3 ewes, one ewe Kydd, 2 weathers;" all appraised at £8. In no other inventory made prior to 1648, is any mention made of any sheep.

Public "Sheep Pastures," were among the early institutions established by vote in town-meetings. One of a thousand acres was formed

from "the two Huckleberry Hills, and Sleepy Plain," in January, 1674-75. This was in Rocky Hill. Others are mentioned under the head of *Commons*.

Shepherds were also chosen by the Town. When the sheep pasture above mentioned was established, Serj. JOHN KILBOURN and Mr. JOSIAH WILLARD were chosen Shepherds. In March, 1684, it was voted that the town Shepherd be paid by a "Sheep-rate;" the tax to be laid upon the owners of sheep only.

*Goats.* In the Inventory of the estate of Nathaniel Foote, who died in Weth. 29 Nov., 1644—his Goats were appraised at £3, 15 s. This is the earliest mention I find of these animals in this Colony, excepting four belonging to the estate of Ephraim Huit of Windsor, the same year. These animals appear to have been much more common then than now.

*Swine.* These were brought into Weth. in 1635. Abraham Finch, who was killed by the Indians in 1637, had four "Shoats," which were inventoried in his estate at £2. John Oldham, in 1636, sold one to Wm. Lewis for £2 16s. They were allowed to run at large and feed in the woods. The General Court, in 1636, at its very first session, provided that the several plantations should "take notice of them and their marks." They were raised in great numbers, and formed an important item of export. When Nathaniel Foote died, in 1644, his "hoggs" were appraised (the number not stated) at £66, about twice as much as his horses. Edward Mason's estate, in 1640, contained twenty-six "borrowe [barrow] hoggs, Stores & Soves;" and they were valued at £31. Leonard Chester's estate, in 1648, had 26 hogs and 3 sows, appraised at £19 10 s. John Hollister's inventory, April 3, 1665, has "29 small swine;" John Edwards' estate, inventoried Dec. 27, 1664, included 15 hogs; John Stoddard's inventory, 20 Dec., 1664, contained 14 hogs.

It is probable that Mr. Nathaniel Foote, the Settler, was either a very successful raiser of swine, or had procured a superior breed, for, in the directions issued to the several towns as to the supplies to be furnished for the Pequot Exposition, it will be remembered that "the hogg" was especially directed to be procured from him.

*Blackbirds.* A bounty of 6d per dozen for those killed in spring and 3<sup>d</sup> for those killed thereafter, to the end of "Indian Harvest," was voted in April, 1695. In December, the same year, it was increased to 12<sup>d</sup>. In 1714, it was voted that the birds destroyed must be *old* ones.

Nothing was said about *crows*; and it may be that "scare-crows" were not so much needed then as later.

*Poultry.* Wild fowls were so abundant that the breeding of any kind of poultry was not a necessary part of a planter's life. Geese and ducks were numerous on the ponds and streams; and the wild turkeys were abundant for at least a hundred years after the first settlement of the Colony; especially in the northern part of the valley of Conn. river. The estate of Nathaniel Foote, appraised in 1644, contains the earliest mention I find of poultry of any kind. The number and kind of fowls is not stated, but his "poultry" is appraised at £1, which must have represented a considerable flock, probably chickens.

[*Live-Stock Breeding* has, of late years, become an important industry in the town. The "native," or oldest breed of cattle here is supposed to have been of Devon and Hereford origin, mixed. Later, the Durham was introduced from England, and, at present, Wethersfield breeders are importing Ayershire, Jersey, Holstein and Swiss cattle. Mr. SILAS W. ROBBINS of Weth., one of the foremost and most successful breeders of fine stock in the country, commenced in this line in 1859, and has devoted himself more especially to the raising of the finest breed of Jersey cattle, which he justly considers as the most beautiful of all the dairy breeds, and which he has bred now for 43 years, with such rare good judgment and success in developing the highest beauty of type, color and form, as well as milking capacity, that his herds—(especially the "Coomassies"—with their rich golden or high fawn color, their lovely heads and placid eyes, and rich milk records)—are eagerly sought for by owners of the best herds all over the U. S. even to the Pacific slope. Stock-breeding has been a passion with Mr. Robbins, whose love of the beautiful shows itself in his dwelling, the works of art with which it is adorned, and the majestic trees and well kept lawns which surround it. Much of his livestock has been directly imported from the Island of Jersey, at a lavish expense; and he has also extended his breeding operations to Cotswold, South Devon, Leicester and Shropshire Down sheep to Shropshire and Berkshire pigs, and to pheasants. Mr. Robbins, previous to his present hobby, was a most successful seedsman, and as an accomplished florist he has taken many prizes. Recently, however, he has sold his "Coomassies" and retired from the business of stock-raising.

*Bees.* Honey seems to have been a more important article of food before the introduction of sugar than since. The Bees belonging to the estate of LEONARD CHESTER and the Rev. HENRY SMITH, both of whom died in 1648—were appraised at eight pounds in each case. In 1650 JAMES BOOSEY's inventory included "11 skipp of bees" appraised at

£9. This was at a time when cows were worth five pounds each, and horses about £12. Perhaps much of it was used in making metheglin.

*Tobacco.* This plant was grown in Connecticut as early as 1640, at which time there were but four or five cleared settlements. The General Court, in June of that year, forbade the *drinking* of any excepting that which was "planted within these libertyes;" so it is by no means a modern crop in Wethersfield. Wethersfield at present produces a large amount of the finest "seed-leaf"—and considerable "Cuban" tobacco.

In Wethersfield, in 1704, the quantity raised must have been sufficient to enable large amounts to be exported (it being one of the principle articles of trade with the West Indies); for it was the occasion of a town vote which prohibited people from fencing "tobacco yards, or gardens," in any "streets, highways, town-land or common." and authorized the selectmen to remove such encroachment.

*Timber.* The preservation of the forests was a matter of public concern, two hundred years ago. Under certain regulations, inhabitants of the township were allowed to go to the public commons and carry thence wood and stone for private use, but not to sell the same. In 1686 it was voted that when a person had felled trees, and had failed to "cut them up" within 3 months, any other person might go and take them for his own use. In 1693, a penalty of 10 shillings was imposed upon an "inhabitant" for each tree he should *transport* outside of town limits; and non-inhabitants were subjected to the same penalty for each tree *felled* by them. In 1698, the by-law provided a penalty of 10 shillings for every load of "building-timber, staves, firewood, or any sort of timber whatsoever," transported from the township. In 1706, a vote recites that much timber has been taken from the commons to "build vessels for persons which belong to other Townes;" whereby timber was becoming scarce "for building houses and making fences." A penalty of 10 shillings was therefore imposed upon each trespasser, excepting where the vessel to be built was for some inhabitant of the Town. The timber mostly in demand was white oak, which was used for the clapboards, as well as the frames of houses, and for pipestaves, etc. Chestnut was used as timber, and for lathing; the latter being thin boards, with numerous splits or clefts, for the mortar to penetrate. Candlewood (pine), was used for lumber, fuel and torches; the latter use being that to which it owed its name.

The old Griswold house, in Griswoldville, which was demolished in 1879, and which stood on the corner of the late Franklin W. Griswold's



home lot, was covered with white oak clapboards, which were rived (split), and not sawed.

*Woods.* Special care was taken to preserve the forests from destruction. It was necessary, of course, to clear some of the land of trees, for agricultural purposes. In April, 1666, Serg. John Kilbourn was employed by the town to "burne the woods betwene us and Midletowne;" and Enoch Buck was at the same time employed to "burne the woods belonging to the other end of the Towne;" each to have six shillings "for his paines." But in 1705 the devastation of timber trees had become so great that a by-law was passed providing a penalty of ten shillings per tree for all "young" trees felled upon the Town lands; this prohibition to continue so long as the "old wood allredy fallen" was sufficient to supply the fuel for the households of the Town. "Young trees" included those having trunks of one foot or less in diameter.

*Drainage.* Many of the lands in Wethersfield were so low and wet as to require drains and sewers. Something on this head has been said under the title "Ditches."

As early as May, 1712, Capt. Robert Welles, Capt. Joshua Robbins, and others, petitioned for a "Commission of Sewers," to drain a tract of lands of which the petitioners owned a "major part." The Governor and Council chose said Welles and Robbins, and Lieut. Jonath Belden, as such a commission.

In August, 1726, David Goodrich, Stephen Mix "and five others" petitioned the General Assembly for a "Commission of Sewers," for draining their lands, which lay in the tract enclosed by High street, Sandy lane and what is now Prison street. Such a commission was granted, consisting of Thos. Wright, John Curtis and Elizur Goodrich. It was in this year that the Town first took action in draining the "Great Swamp," which resulted in the formation of Folly brook.

In June, 1761, James Mitchell, Sam. Wolcott and Silas Loomis were appointed commissioners to drain "the Wet Swamp, extending from the third highway, running east and west from the dividing line between Hartford and Wethersfield, until it comes to said line." This will be recognized as the swamp next west of Wolcott hill, and north of the present Churchill, or Collier road.

At the same session, upon the petition of Josiah Welles, Sam. Wolcott, Elisha Wolcott, Joseph Richards, Timothy Hurlburt and the heirs of William Rhodes—a commission consisting of Joseph Richards and Josiah Welles, was appointed to drain about forty acres of Gooseberry Swamp. This was in the lower end of Hog meadows, near the section sometimes called Gooseberry, or Rhodes quarter.

In June, 1771, upon the petition of Will. Warner, John Chester, Silas Deane, Nich. Ayrault, Jonath Welles "and many others"—Sam. Bishop, James Pierpont and Moses Gilbert were chosen commissioners to drain Fearful Swamp. In September, 1786, upon the petition of John Chester, Josiah Robbins, Justus Riley "and many others"—Josiah Robbins, Appleton Robbins and Justus Riley were chosen commissioners, to drain Fearful Swamp, by a ditch *across* it, to the river. This was probably the action which resulted in the sewer of planks along the north side of the Causeway road.

In May, 1828, George Stillman, Josiah W. Bristol, James Smith and others, petitioned for a commission, to drain the swamp extending South from the Pratt's Ferry road "to the crossway," about one mile. Justus Riley, Asher Robbins and Edward Shepherd were chosen. The land-owners were empowered to choose a collector, and a scavenger.

In most of these cases the drainage was effected by open ditches.

*Ditches.* It is obvious that in the early years of the town, ditches, for drainage purposes, were found to be quite sufficient. And when the "Palisado" was built, the row of upright palings of timbers were set in the ridge formed by a ditch excavated at the same time; leaving the ditch on the outside.

When Edward Wood, about 1640, sold his homestead, a little east of where the meeting house stood, to George Wylls, Esq., of Hartford, it was bounded west by a "common" (meeting-house square), and a "three-way lete in the middle of the town." A "lete," more correctly *leat*, is a ditch or trench; and it thus appears that the Green by the meeting-house (a much larger space than it is to-day), was traversed by ditches.

In April, 1651, John Harrison, Thomas Wright, John Saddler, John Stoddard and John Goodrich—who owned lots in the section bounded by High St., Fort (now Prison) St. and Sandy lane—executed a written agreement, wherein they say that their "house lots are surrounded every winter and spring with water," so that they "could not have any profit in the middle of their lots." They therefore agree that these lots shall be ditched; the expense to be borne by themselves exclusive of Stoddard, whose lot is "hie and dry," but has to be traversed by the ditch in question.

In a town vote of April, 1695, the ditches by the Great Meadow gate are mentioned. Others will be referred to under the title "Swamps," and "Drainage."

*Weeds in Highways.* As early as 1653, the by-laws provided that land owners should cut down the elders, briers and weeds in front of

their lands, where such vegetation should “pedjiuce [prejudice] the highway.” Alders were particularly mentioned as to be thus dealt with. The cutting was to be done “half across the street,” by the opposite owners, and the work to be done between the 25th days of March and June. But most of the streets were then, in fact, what they were sometimes called—merely “paths” through the wilderness.

*Fences.* It is probable that the expensive and cumbrous structures, so common in our day, were not generally tolerated, as between small enclosures in the earliest days of the Colony; and it is an evidence of progress that recently many of these needless barricades have been removed by the consent of the interested parties.

Around common fields, fences were more necessary and as early as 1649, the townsmen [selectmen] were authorized by the town to prescribe the kind of fence, and the proportion thereof which each land owner should maintain. The General Court, in 1643, had provided that from five to seven men be chosen annually in each town to attend to the matter of inspecting fences of common fields; and it is probable that such officers were chosen by the “proprietors,” and that prior to 1649, they had attended to such duties. But neither selectmen nor fence viewers had power to compel the fencing of land in severalty at this time.

In 1650 the “Code of Laws” provided certain regulations for divisional fences. But it was at the same time provided that no man should “bee lyable to satisfy for dammage done in any ground *not* sufficiently fenced,” except what should be done by swine under a year old, or by unruly cattle, or by voluntary trespasses. The *kind* of fence was not stated. In 1684 the town voted that all fence “belonging to the town,” should be 4 ft. 2 in. high; whilst hedges should have 5 stakes to the rod, and be well bound at the top. (See *fence viewers*.)

*Hedges.* Our ancestors came from a country where hedges were more common than fences; and it is probable that barriers of this kind were in early times commonly in use here. In 1684 a by-law of the town provided that all hedges should have five stakes to the rod, and be well bound at the top. What trees were used does not appear; but the barberry, introduced from England, was very commonly used.

*Fence Viewers.* The law of February, 1645-4, required the several Towns to appoint such officers, to the number of five at least, in each Town. Their duties were much more important then than to-day, since there were many miles of *common*, or public fences, to be looked after; and great numbers of cattle and swine were allowed to be at large, upon the common and undivided lands. Until 1660, it appears that they were

chosen by the selectmen. In Feb. 1660-1, the Town chose John Nott and John Riley "to survey the fence for this year;" and fence viewers thereafter, usually two in number, were generally chosen. At a later period an additional one was chosen for the east side of the River, and one for Rocky Hill.

In March, 1660, by vote of the Town, there was a general apportionment of the Meadow fence among the land owners, of which there were then 89 in all.

*Gates.* These were maintained not only at the approaches to the "Meadows," or common fields, as at present, but at the entrances to stated commons, and certain highways. The "meadow gate" and "plain gates" are mentioned in a town vote of 1652. The only meadow then improved and allotted to private owners was the "Great" meadow; and there were three gates belonging to it. One of these was near what is now the Point of Rocks, by the Cove; another on the road now leading to the wharf, and the third one on what is now called the Pratt's Ferry road. With the disappearance of a large part of the northeast section of this meadow, the northernmost gate was discontinued. Other gates to the meadows have been established, and their positions changed in some cases; but an account of these changes will not be attempted here.

In March, 1698-9, the town authorized gates to be set up "at the end of some of the highways, about the west end of the long lots." The Long lots (1½ miles long) had their western terminus near the summit of the ridge next west of Wolcott hill, and the great common adjoined them on the west. The gates in question must have been across what are now known as Jordan lane, Nott's lane and the road through Welles' quarter.

*Bridges.* The "Old Bridge at Goff's brooke" was ordered repaired in 1680. It was probably built about 1650. A "cart bridge," over "the brook over the way leading out of the towne, towards Ben. Crane's house," was ordered built in 1683-4. This was on the road connecting Broad St. with Mud Lane; and the stream was much larger then than now. A new bridge was ordered for Goffe's brook in 1712.

*Fairs.* Under this head are not included the special fairs and festivals of the present day. These are too numerous and unimportant to receive special mention. But Fairs, in the old and European sense, have been held in Wethersfield.

At its May session, 1783, the General Assembly authorized the holding a "Public Mart, or Fair" in Wethersfield, twice per year; once in May, and once in September or October. They were to be



of three day's continuance and the buildings, etc., were to be constructed at the expense of the Town.

In October, 1784, the "Civil Authority and Selectmen" of the Town convened and established a lengthy series of "By-laws and Regulations" for the "Public Fair or Mart." A "Court of Wardens" was instituted; to be a "Court of Record." Its judges were a Senior Warden and two Junior Wardens. Also a Register and two Constables were provided. Each constable was to be furnished with "a black staff, as a badge of his office," and was empowered to seize offenders "without warrant," and bring them before the Court of Wardens. Licenses, fines and tolls were granted or imposed. Eight wards were established, within which the following named articles might be sold respectively: No. 1, Dry Goods; No. 2, West India goods and Liquors; No. 3, Lumber; No. 4, Iron, Steel, Brass, Pewter, Tin and Lead; No. 5, Grain of all kinds; No. 6, Flax-seed and Salt; No. 7, Horses; No. 8, Neat Cattle. Stephen Mix Mitchell was Chairman of the Board.

In the *Conn. Courant*, for Oct. 26th, 1784, is an account of the Fair held on the three days ending October 13th. It says that: "A great quantity of Dry and West India Goods, as well as country manufactures, together with horses, neat cattle, sheep and swine were sold or bartered in the Fair." "This concourse of people was very great. Some laid out to the amount of a thousand dollars in the Fair," etc. A similar Fair was held in the following Spring, and again in April, 1786, as we learn from an advertisement of a postponement of its opening on account of the Fast; but it is probable that few more were held, and that they took place in Broad Street. It is certain that the institution did not become permanent, and that very few were chartered for other towns in the state.

## CHAPTER XV.

*Public and Semi-Public Works, Institutions, Etc.—Mills—Manufactories—Various Industries—Societies—Population—Physicians Etc., Etc.*

[BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ.]

THE ESTABLISHMENT and care, by Town action, of Highways, Commons, Cemeteries, River Landings, Ferries, Wharves, etc., etc., will be found recorded and discussed in other chapters of this volume; but there is a class of public works, originated or fostered by private enterprise, either individual or corporate, which demand some attention at our hands. These latter may be termed *semi-public* undertakings.

*The Town House.*—In 1679, the Town voted to build “a small house, on the parsonage home lot, for a “house of *office*” and some other uses. This stood on the site occupied within our memory by Dr. E. F. Cooke’s dwelling; and appears to have been the only office for business purposes which the Town has ever owned. The Meeting House was practically used as a Hall down to a period within the memory of those now living; and the Town Hall of the present day is in the second story of the Academy building, which was erected in 1798.

*The Workhouse* in Wethersfield was established, in 1811, by Special Act of the Legislature—two years before the passage of the law of 1813, authorizing each town to establish such an institution. Prior to this time, except in a few special cases, the workhouses of Connecticut were County institutions; generally a part of the County jail. The Act of 1813, referred to, termed these houses for the poor “Asylums.” But it had been the usage for some towns, certainly for Wethersfield, to have such houses built at the public expense—in some highway, or other land belonging to the Town—so that their location is not now discoverable by records. One was in Newington parish; for, in 1787, the Town authorized, by vote, the building of an “addition” to it, and paid Martin Kellogg £23, 9*d.* for doing the work.

After 1813, the general usage was to hire a building for the purpose. Thomas Chester’s tannery, on the east side of Broad St., was first hired; after that, the Crane tannery in “Egypt” (demolished some years ago) was hired for the same purpose.

In March, 1838, the Town purchased from William Harmer for \$4,600, the Rose Place, with its old dwelling house, on the south side of Pratt's Ferry road—the tract contained 34 acres, and included part of the old Burnham estate. The old house was converted into an “almshouse and workhouse” and served its purpose until 1850, when the present structure was erected on the same site; and in 1862, was enlarged.

*State Prison.*—This institution was in the caverns of the abandoned copper mines, at Simsbury (the part now East Granby), for 54 years, beginning with 1773. It was then called Newgate. In May, 1827, mainly through the instrumentality of Judge Martin Welles, a resident of Wethersfield—the General Assembly established it, under the name of “The Connecticut State Prison,” at this place. The site selected was land which had been in the family of Gov. Tho. Welles since 1643, but which at first belonged to John Plumb. The building containing the cells was of the red sandstone of the Portland, Conn., quarries; whilst the workshops were of brick. The outer walls of the prison-yard were of the same sandstone. Enlargements and alterations have been from time to time made to the original structure; the principal of which have been the addition of the hospital, chaplain's house and sundry out-buildings; and adding another story to the main building, or prison proper—making a four-story structure of it.

The transfer of the convicts from Newgate to the Prison was effected Sept. 29th, 1827; at which time the number incarcerated was 127. The average number during 1884 was 235, the number of inmates to-day is larger, but the exact figures are not at hand. The commandant of the establishment is called the Warden.

Several tragedies have been enacted within the Prison walls. Ezra Hoskins, a guard, aged 66, was murdered by convicts, on the night of April 30th, 1833. Gerald Toole, a life-convict, early in 1862, murdered the then Warden, Daniel Webster. Dave Kentley, *alias* James Wilson, etc., a native of Ireland, and a noted criminal, in 1870, assassinated the Warden, William Willard. In order to cheat the gallows of its work, the murderer thrust a piece of iron wire, three inches in length, *into his own heart*, until it was buried so deeply it could not be reached to be extracted by the fingers. The effort at suicide was a failure; and though rendered so weak as to require support on the gallows platform, he was hanged, in the corridor of the jail at Hartford, in accordance with the sentence of execution. An effort to starve himself had been equally unsuccessful; the purpose having been thwarted by injection of food sufficient to sustain life.



THE CONNECTICUT STATE PRISON—WETHERSFIELD.



THE GREEN—WETHERSFIELD.



A VIEW ACROSS THE GREEN.

*By Courtesy of The Connecticut Magazine.*





*Fire Companies.*—With one exception, (Stratford) Wethersfield had the first *chartered* Fire Company in the State. [Previous to this, it is evident that Wethersfield had some sort of a fire-fighting organization (perhaps, though, nothing better than a “bucket brigade”) for the *Records of the Ecclesiastical Society*, note the vote (Dec., 1801) of the sum of \$200 to be raised by said Society, and “added to the subscription for a fire-engine.”] At the May Session, 1803, upon the petition of the Hon. Stephen Mix Mitchell and others, an organization of sixteen men was authorized by the Legislature. In their petition the applicants say that they have already procured two fire-engines. But the machines of that day were force-pumps of small dimension, compared with modern appliances for the same purpose. [That these engines were so procured seems to be evidenced by a vote of the Ecclesiastical Society, in 1808, directing the Foreman of the Fire Co., to procure hose for *each* of the engines. March 22, 1827, the Ecclesiastical Society voted that “the *Civil Authority*, and the Society’s Committee enlist and organize a fire company, and enact suitable By-Laws for the prevention and extinguishment of fire, under a Resolve of the General Assembly of 1803; and the First Ecclesiastical Society seems at this time to have transferred their right and title to all share in the Fire Department to the First School Society.]

How long the company continued active is uncertain; but it is probable that it was not efficient at the time of the noted conflagration, on the east side of High street. in 1831. For, in May, 1834, there was found a necessity for a new Fire Company; then incorporated, upon the petition of James Smith, Abraham Skaats, George Stillman, Jun., Charles Shepard and others. They were organized as “The Wethersfield Fire Company;” the number of members being 25. This company purchased the engine “Neptune No. 1” of a Hartford fire company. It also had a fire-hook, ladders, hose, buckets and other appliances, which were kept in the basement of the Congregational chapel. In 1840, the Legislature authorized the complement of members to be increased to ten. This Company has been practically extinct for 20 years, or more. Its engine went to pieces about 1872, when the building that had sheltered it was demolished. Since that time, a hook and ladder company has been formed and still exists—being housed in the building formerly the car-house of the Horse Railroad Company.

*Drainage Companies* in Weth. have been from time to time authorized by the Legislature, as follows: 1712—to drain swamp west of Wolcott Hill; 1726. to drain lands south and west of present Prison St.; and in the same year the “Great Swamp,” west of “the Folly” was drained

by being diverted from its southern outflow to a new channel across the road to the River—hence originated the “Folly Brook;” by the same agency, the “West Swamp,” west of Wolcott Hill, was drained in 1761; and also, by Acts of Legislature at the same session, “Gooseberry Swamp” and “Hog Meadows.” In 1771 and 1786, “Fearful Swamp” was drained; and in 1828 the tract between Pratt’s Ferry Road and the Causeway. In 1890 the majority of owners of lands abutting upon Fearful Swamp, petitioned the Legislature to authorize the formation of a company “The Fearful Swamp Drainage Co.” to drain said swamp.

Dams exist, or have existed, on Collier, Tando’s, Sucker, or Mill, Hang-Dog and Goffe’s Brooks—all in Wethersfield proper. Also on Piper’s River, in Newington; Mattabesett River, in Beckley’s Quarter, and in Dividend, Hog, Frog and other brooks in Rocky Hill.

Of these, that at Hang-Dog (now the “Reservoir” at Griswoldville) was first formed in 1716, across the southern outflow of Deming’s meadows—for the purpose of storing water for Chester’s Mill. In or about 1830, the dyck was raised and strengthened by Thomas (Sen.) and Thomas (Jr.) Griswold in order to supply water for their fulling mill, the water being drawn across by a trench made for that purpose. The remains of the dam were to be seen (1884) in the pasture S. W. of Capt. Williams’ factory.

The dam on Sucker (or Mill) Brook (remains of which are still visible) was probably the *first* built in Connecticut, and was made to furnish power to Mr. Leonard Chester’s grist mill, built in 1637. It is located a few rods below the dam of the present (disused) Adams’ grist mill, on the same stream. See, also, p. 638.

*Turnpike Roads.* These were first regulated by general enactments in 1806. But before that date many had been specially authorized in the State.

The first Turnpike through Wethersfield was that of the Hartford and New Haven Turnpike Co., chartered in October, 1798. The charter was granted to the Hon. James Hillhouse, of New Haven, and his associates. It was laid out in a very nearly straight line from the west side of South Green, in Hartford, to Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven. Its northernmost gate was a few rods south of the north line of Wethersfield; the old toll-house still standing on land lately of Sam. Hillhouse, deceased. The road was set with a row of Lombardy poplars on each side, and some of these picturesque trees remain to this day. In 1815, an alteration in the New Haven end of the road required the removal of the dwelling house of the said James Hillhouse.

The next, and only other Turnpike to cross Wethersfield, was that of

the Middlesex Turnpike Co., chartered in 1802. The charter was granted to Epaphroditus Champion, Nehemiah Hubbard, Jonathan O. Moseley and others; and by its terms the northern end of the road began at the south side of Goffe's Brook (now in Rocky Hill), while the southern terminus was at "the Stage road, in Saybrook." There were four gates on the road; the most northern one being just north of the present dividing line between Rocky Hill and Cromwell. Both these turnpikes have ceased to exist as such; the latter in 1872.

*Transportation—Stages, Etc.*—Wagons were used for the carriage of travelers many years before stage coaches were employed. Open wagons were succeeded by canvas-topped ones. Stage coaches were introduced in England, for carrying the mails, in 1784; and it is probable that their introduction here was but very little later.

The first transportation line in Connecticut, having public recognition as such, was that granted by the Legislature to Capt. John Munson, of New Haven, in October, 1717. He was granted the exclusive right "to set up a wagon to pass and transport passengers and goods between Hartford and New Haven," for the term of seven years. He was required to make at least one trip per month (excepting in December, January, February and March); and each round trip was to be accomplished within a week's time! The route lay through Wethersfield center, Hang-Dog, West Rocky Hill and Beckley's Quarter; by what was then called the New Haven road; but to-day, Wethersfield people call it the Berlin road. This was the great highway between the two capitals until the construction of the Hartford and New Haven Turnpike, in 1798-9. It was also on the "Post-road," between Boston and New York.

A mail stage-route existed for many years, until 1850 or later, through Wethersfield, Rocky Hill and Middletown, from Hartford to New Haven. Afterward, it became a Hartford and Durham, and then a Hartford and Middletown line; continuing its daily trip until the opening of the Connecticut Valley R. R., in 1871. James M. Vibberts was the last proprietor of this line. An omnibus line, between Hartford and Wethersfield, making tri-daily trips, existed from about 1852, until the opening of the H. and W. Horse Railroad, in 1862-3. John N. and Ira M. Standish were the last who owned this line. A stage to Rocky Hill (part of the time to Durham) was run by Mr. H. Webb, from 1860 to 1868.—(See *Railroads*.)

*Railroads.*—The first railway station within Wethersfield township was at Newington, in 1839, on the "Hartford and New Haven Rail-



road," as it was then called, chartered in 1833. At that time there was no depot in Newington; nor, indeed, till 18—. The next station was also in Newington, in 1850; on the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad, chartered in 1847. In 1871, a station was established, with depot at Wethersfield, just west of the village; a new highway being made to reach the same. In 1872, a station and depot was established on the same road (the Hartford and Conn. Valley, R. R.) at South Wethersfield. That at Rocky Hill was established in 1871, the year the road was opened. The road was incorporated in 1868; Mr. S. W. Robbins being the only charter member from Wethersfield.

*Horse Railroad.*—The Hartford and Wethersfield Horse R. R. Co. opened its road, to a point a few rods below its present (1884) terminus, in 1862. Its cars first ran on May 27th, 1863. It was incorporated in 1859, with a capital stock of \$100,000. Of the six charter members named, two, Silas W. Robbins and Henry C. Dwight, were from Wethersfield. In 1864, Capt. Daniel A. Mills, Gen. James T. Pratt and others, of Rocky Hill, were incorporated as the Rocky Hill and Wethersfield Horse R. R. Co. Nothing was done under this charter.

September 8, 1888, the Wethersfield street car line was operated by electricity under the storage battery system, which proved unsatisfactory, and the Westinghouse system was introduced. This was one of the first electric lines in the country. The continuation through Main Street, Hartford, not equipped till May 12, 1895; cars ran thither for first time, 27th of that month. The trolley has since been extended to the lower end of Broad Street.

*Postoffices; Postmasters.*—Neither the Colony, nor the State of Connecticut, ever exercised jurisdiction over mail matters or post-routes. Until 1775, all such matters were under the control and direction of the British Government; which appointed a postmaster for New England, having his office in Boston; and whose "deputies" rode from town to town, on horseback, bearing the mails. The principal route from Boston to New York lay through New London; which place, by Act of Parliament, was made the chief postoffice in Connecticut, in 1710. In 1774, some of the mails were carried by private enterprise, through the agency of Wm. Goddard, of Baltimore. Benjamin Franklin, who had been Postmaster for New England since 1752, was, in 1775, made Postmaster-General, by the Continental Congress. At this time the mails were generally transported by post-horses.

In 1790, there were but 75 postoffices in the United States. In 1880, the number had increased to 42,989. The number in Connecticut in 1790, was nine, viz.: New London, Hartford, Middletown, New Ha-

ven, Norwich, Fairfield, Stamford, Stratford and Norwalk. In 1880, the number was 450.

The postoffice was established at Wethersfield, 1st April, 1794; THOMAS CHESTER was the first postmaster. He lived in the Silas Deane house; next south of the Webb house; in 1799, LEVI BUTLER was postmaster. The postoffice at Rocky Hill dates from October 1st, 1802; the first postmaster having been ISAAH BUTLER. That at Newington was established 12 February, 1828, with AMOS FAIRCHILD for its first postmaster. That at South Wethersfield was established in April, 1873; LYMAN HEWITT, postmaster. A neighborhood supply was established at Griswoldville, a few years since.

*Water Supply.*—The Town has none of its own. About 15 or 20 years ago, a supply was introduced from the West Hartford Water Works, which furnishes water down Hartford Avenue to the State Prison, and down State and High Streets (North Main) to the Episcopal church. A Wethersfield Water Company, incorporated by the Legislature of 1901, has, as yet, effected nothing beyond a survey from the so-called "reservoir" at Griswoldville.

*Gas and Electric Lighting Facilities.*—The Hartford gas mains extend down Hartford Avenue, nearly to Wilcox Street, for private use. The State Prison used its own gasoline tank until about 1895, when it was replaced by *electricity* from Hartford. The village, since the 6th of August, 1899, has been, more or less, fairly lighted by a few 15-candle power incandescents transmitted from the same source.

*Telegraph and Telephone.*—Telegraphic communication has existed at the railroad station since the opening of the Hartford & Valley R. R. in 1871. The village has also been well served by *telephone* since the early days of that useful invention, until, at present, there are a number in the town, public and private.

*Insurance Company.*—Among the earliest Fire Insurance Companies in this State, on the *mutual* plan, was that chartered in 1830, under the name of the "Wethersfield Mutual Fire Ins. Co." The charter members were: Jacob Warner, Elisha Williams, Henry Welles, Steph. Francis, Hosea Harris, Sam. Coleman, Simeon Hale, Will. Willard, Dan. Russell, Tho. Warner, James Treat, Hen. Deming, John B. Alden, James Griswold, Ashbel Robertson, Steph. B. Goodwin, Welles Adams, Asher Robbins, Tho. Havens, Sam. Galpin, Abr. Crane, Allyn Smith, Ichabod Crittenden, Geo. Rhodes, David Crane, Will. A. Havens, Hen. Robbins, Elisha Robbins, Will. Adams, Simeon Blinn, Horace Adams, James Barrett, Will. Adams, Jun., John S. Riley, Steph. Willard, Abr. Skaats, Moses Morris, Jalon Dickinson, Eben Stillman, Davis Morris, Martin

Welles, Geo. Holmes, John Palmer, Will. Talcott and Will. W. Goodrich. All these people have joined that "great majority who are no longer in the land of the living." I am not in possession of data which will enable me to give an account of the doings of this now defunct corporation.

**MILLS—MANUFACTORIES—INDUSTRIES.**—Under this head we can record nothing of great magnitude, since Wethersfield has always been and is an agricultural community, and her streams furnish but a limited supply of water-power for the propulsion of machinery.

*Grist Mills.*—The first mills in the Colony were known as "Corne Mills;" the word "corn" being used to express the modern term "grain" in general. In some of them water, but more often the wind, was employed as the motive power. These grist mills were so much a public necessity that the towns frequently assisted in maintaining them.

To Wethersfield, probably, belongs the distinction of having possessed the *first* grist mill in the Colony. It was built on what is now known as "Sucker" or "Mill" brook by that earnest and accomplished young gentleman, one of the settlers of 1635, Leonard Chester. It was whilst seeking out a place to set up this mill, in 1636, as is supposed, that Chester lost his way in the wilderness, and, after several day's search, was found, nearly dead, on the eminence which thereafter bore the name of Mount Lamentation.—See Chapter I.

Dr. Stiles, in his *History of Windsor*, supposes that town to have had the first mill; but he does not attempt to fix the date when it was built. He says it was "resorted to" by people of other towns, "even from Middletown." This is obviously a mistake, since Middletown was not settled till 1650-1; prior to which there was a mill at Hartford, as well as at Wethersfield.

Fortunately, there is no difficulty in fixing the year in which Chester's mill was built. Mr. Chester's first will, dated 22d Nov., 1637, is recorded in a volume in the office of the Secretary of State, at Hartford. In that instrument, he devises to his son John, "that mill, and the appurtenances thereto belonging, w<sup>ch</sup> I am *in building*, at the *devising of these presents*, in the town and libberty of Wethersfield." So that we have 1637 as the date when the mill was set up.

The mill-stream was, as it still is, essentially a surface-water stream. Excepting near its source, and that of its tributary, Collier brook, living springs contributed but little to its volume of flow. But the volume was probably more steady, when its watershed was covered by forests, than to-day.

The building stood about a mile southwest of Chester's house, which was in Broad Street. Its site was very near that of the former (now disused) mill of Russell and William W. Adams; and they owned the land on which the mill stood; their mill being the third (perhaps the fourth) in the series of grist mills which have existed on the same mill privilege. The dam was a few rods below that of the present grist mill, where its remains are still to be seen.

What are believed to be the mill-stones of Chester's mill, may still be seen, chipped and broken, by the side of the ruins of the second (or third?) mill, on this tract. They are of a coarse red sand stone, full of hard gravel and pebbles, and probably were never as good for the purpose, as the mill-stones of to-day. Several other sets of millstones, some made by cementing fragments of stone together—may be seen at the same place.

It was propelled by water, probably having an overshot wheel. It is doubtful whether it contained a bolting mill, few mills had them at first. Bolting was done by hand power, by other persons than millers.

The highway, from the lower end of Broad Street, over South Hill, was, for many years, called, in the record, "the Path to the Mill." Mr. Chester's tract of land at the mill contained about 100 acres.

Mr. Chester died in December, 1648. In September, of that year, NATHANIEL DICKINSON, the town clerk, and JOHN COULTMAN, the town "schoolmaster," had, as it seems, contracted to purchase the mill. Whereupon, September 22d, 1648, the town voted to assist Dickinson & Coultman in said purchase, by giving them five pounds toward the purchase money, and ten pounds to be expended in repairing it. Coultman had been an employe of Mr. Chester, whose wid. in her will devised to him a token of her regard.<sup>1</sup>

Whether these parties actually bought the mill at this time, does not appear. In October, 1660, it belonged to JOHN STODDARD; but no deed of transfer to either of the parties mentioned above, appears of record. On October 25th, 1660, the town voted to purchase, of said Stoddard, "his mill, w<sup>th</sup> the land and the appurtenances thereto," for the sum of 27 pounds. In the following December, the town voted to release the mill to Stoddard; and also chose Thomas Hurlburt and Hugh Welles to go from house to house, to solicit one day's labor from each inhabitant, to assist in repairing it. In January, 1662, Stoddard conveyed the mill, with twenty acres of land, to Mr. JOHN CHESTER, son of Leon-

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<sup>1</sup> See Wyman's *Charlestown* (Mass.) *Genealogies and Estates*, II. 830. "To Servant John Coultman of Weth. she bequeathed a silver cup, marked *M. I. D.*, and a silver plate with Chester arms"—date of prob. 1 Oct., 1689. *Middlesex Prob.* VIII.



ard, deceased. The tract was bounded northerly and westerly by land of the said Chester; easterly by a highway; southerly by "common" land. This shows, plainly, that "Stoddard's mill" was the one built by Leonard Chester.

Capt. Chester, who had paid Stoddard 27 pounds for the mill, at once sold a one-third interest therein, to Coultman, for 9 pounds. As Dickinson had in the meantime removed to Hadley, Mass., it is not probable that he took any part of the mill; although he furnished Coultman with the money wherewith the latter paid for *his* share.

Capt. Chester died in 1698, and the mill, or at least his two-thirds interest in it, descended to his son, Maj. JOHN CHESTER. The latter died in 1711, and his widow, Hannah (Talcott) was the next possessor of it. In March, 1716, ELIPHALET DICKINSON and WILLIAM BLIN were the lessees of "Madame Hannah Chester's Mill." As such, they then petitioned the town for liberty to overflow Deming's Meadows (now the Reservoir tract), and to divert other streams to assist the flow of the principal one.<sup>1</sup> Their petition was granted. At this time, and since about 1697, Zachariah Seymour's fulling mill, southwest of Chester's lot, was getting the benefit of the same stream. Oct. 7, 1760, AMASA ADAMS bought one-fourth part of the mill from Thos. Curtis, and 3 Jan., 1769, another quarter from Roger Riley of Kensington and Justus Riley of Wethersfield, *Weth. Recs.*, XIV, 359; in Mch., 1772, Amasa conveyed one-fourth part to his son John, and May 15, 1782, a quarter to his son Joseph. In May, 1781, the mill (or a portion of it) passed from PETER BURNHAM to JOHN MARSH. A new mill building was erected in 1797, and the present one in 1862, originally on Mill Hill, until removed, about ten years ago, to its present location. Whenever a new mill structure has been erected, it has never been many rods from the old one; and the mill since Amasa Adams and his sons owned it, has been known as "The Adams Mill." [Since *S. W. A.* wrote the above, Messrs. Smith & Farmer purchased the Adams Mill and moved it to a few rods west of its original site. A new dam was erected to the east of the Chester dam, new buildings were added and a large cider and grist business carried on. Recently, the mill passed into the hands of Mr. Theron Welles of Wethersfield.

*Dividend* or *Bulkeley mill* was probably the next grist mill set up in Wethersfield.

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<sup>1</sup> The overflow was by the sunken side of the meadows, where the dike was then built; the stream leading therefrom being then known as Hang-Dog brook. This flooded section of the old Deming's meadow is now known as the Griswoldville Reservoir, and an overflow from the N. E. side to divert its water into Collier brook was made about fifty years ago.



THE OLD ADAMS' MILL.



AN OLD FISH-HOUSE ON THE COVE.



As early as June 5th, 1661, the town had given to "M<sup>r</sup>. JOHN WINTHROP, our Hon<sup>r</sup>. Govern<sup>r</sup>., and to his heirs forever, Deuident brook," with "sufficient" land for mills and dams; as also "what wood he pleses, or stones, within one mile of Deuident line, in our bounds."<sup>1</sup> The gift was upon the condition that the Governor should erect one or more mills thereon; but no time was limited within which he must build. In point of fact, the Governor, although invited to take up his residence at Hartford, continued to reside at Pequet (New London), and never complied with the terms of the donation. Accordingly, in June, 1668, he released the tract to the town, at the same time "advising and desiering the townesmen (selectmen) to take care that there may be a convenient highway appointed and reserued, from the Great Riuer up into the woods." In February, 1677, the town was informed that Mr. GERSHOM BULKELEY, their new minister, "was minded to build a corne mill at Diuidend," gave him "liberty to make a mill pond" on the common land of the town, at that place. Bulkeley had previously been given a tract of 140 acres, at the same place; it was laid out by Capt. Sam. Welles, Serg. John Nott and Hugh Welles.

That Mr. Bulkley built a mill at once, is shown by a vote of Nov. 17th, 1678; wherein Serg. John Kilbourn, Mr. Eleazer Kimberly, Serg. John Deming and Ens. Hugh Welles were directed to lay out to him 150 of land, additional to his former grants, "joining to his land, in his present possession, *by his mill*."<sup>2</sup> They were also directed to lay out a highway, "from Middletown road, about Jn<sup>o</sup> Taylor's house, to Mr. Bulkley's mill; and another one, 20 rods wide, "from the north end of Josiah Gilbert's land, to runn from the Great river to the other way mentioned."

A mill has been maintained here until about 1880 or '86, but the Bulkeley mill, about 1830, was converted into an edge-tool factory. Bones and gypsum have also been ground in most of these mills.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> June 5th, 1661. Towne Meeting. "It was voted and granted by the Town to Mr. John Winthrop, our Honor Governr," and to his heirs and for ever. Derident brook [Dividend brook], and sofiseen [sufficient] land to build upon, both melles and dames; and also all the land that shall hapen to be flowed with the watter of his mell or mells ponds; and also liberty to take what wood he plesse, or Staves, within one mile of Denident line, in our bounds; with this p<sup>r</sup>viso [proviso], and it is all wayes p<sup>r</sup>vided, that if the said Hon<sup>r</sup> Governr Winthrop doe buld mell or mells, acoring to his p<sup>r</sup>posistion made to the Towne, that than this grant to be confermed and setteled upon the said Winthrop and his heirs for ever; or else to be void and of non efict" [none effect.] *Weth. Town Votes*, I, p. 71.

<sup>2</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I, p. 155. Sept. 2d, 1680.

<sup>3</sup> The Rev. Gershom Bulkeley was given thirty acres of land, "where it will be most commodious for him, and least damage to the Towne."



*Sawmills* were not in use, even in England, until about 1660; and it is said that the opposition to their use was so great that one set up there, by a Dutchman, in 1663, had to be abandoned.

In the early days of the Colony, timber was sawn in saw-pits. A long saw was worked, by two men; the "top-sawyer" standing upon the timber, and the "pitman" in a pit beneath it. Sawing was done in this way within the memory of people now living, at the ship-yard, at the Cove.

Clapboards, and most of the lumber, was *rived*, or split out, with axes and wedges. When the Thomas Griswold house, in Griswoldville, was demolished about thirty years ago, it was found that the oldest clapboards were rived, and of white oak.

It is probable that the first sawmill in Wethersfield was built by THOMAS HARRISS, of Hartford. In October, 1667, the General Court granted him forty acres of land, east of the three-mile lots, on a stream in what is now the northwest corner of Eastbury—with liberty to build a "Sawe Mill" thereon. That it was built within the two years required by the conditions of the grant, is evident from the fact that in May, 1669, the same Court gave Joseph Bull and John Bidwell, J., 200 acres of land, "in the commons, next to the place *where there saw mill stands;*" and Dr. Chapin (*Glastonbury Centennial*) says that they had this mill by assignment from Harriss. It should be said that at that time the land in question was not within the limits of any township; but the extension of Wethersfield bounds five miles further east, in 1672, brought it within Wethersfield bounds. This sawmill was on the south side of "Saw-mill River, commonly called Hoccanum River," near "Spar-mill Swamp."

The *next sawmill* in the township was at *Pipe-stave swamp*, in what is now Newington. This swamp was so called because of the great number of staves split out at that place for pipes and hogsheds. On the 25th of October, 1677, the town granted to Emanuel Buck, John Riley, Samuel Boardman and Joseph Riley, all of the village of Wethersfield—twenty acres of land, each, "about Pipe-stave swamp" (in Newington), with "sufficient ponding," condition that they build a sawmill thereon, "before the last of September next." They were also given liberty to take timber from the common lands. They were to sell boards at five shillings per hundred [feet?], and "slit-work" by "the rule of proportion." This was when the lumber was delivered at the house of the purchaser; at the mill, the price was four shillings per hundred. Should the town see cause, sawing was to cease at the end of twelve years. The land was laid out by Hugh Welles, Serg.

John Nott, Serg. John Deming and Joseph Edwards. The mill was built very soon thereafter, as it is mentioned in a town vote of March, 1680, when Buck was granted 30 acres more "at the saw-mill."

*West Farms.*—This name was given in 1708, and perhaps earlier, to that section of what is now Newington between the Mile-in-Breadth and Cedar Mountain; or, more accurately, between the Half-Mile Common and said mountain. The west section of Stepney parish was at one time given the same name, by Rocky Hill people.

*West Division.*—This term, as well as "West Farms," was sometimes used to include all, or nearly all, the tract which later became Newington parish. It seems to have included Cow Plain and the Mile-in-Breadth.

This mill stood on the west side of what afterward became the Joseph Andrews' farm; now, or lately Martin Kellogg's. The road leading from Wethersfield, across Hog Meadow, through what is now Welles' Quarter, to the "west farmes," was for many years called the "Saw-mill Path," a name first appearing in the record, in 1683. In September, 1702, the mill became the property of said Andrews. He (whose name was anciently written "Andrus,") was a son of John Andrus, one of the early settlers of Farmington. He had bought the two Rileys' lands, in March, 1684; and in September of that year, the town of Wethersfield gave him "a small piece" of land near it, on which, it is believed, he built the first dwelling house in Newington.

In the *Andrews' Memorial* this sawmill is erroneously mentioned as belonging to Joseph Andrews in 1684. Andrews bought it of Phineas Wilson's widow, in 1702; Wilson being a Hartford man, who seems to have got the mill by foreclosure of mortgages given by the owners aforesaid; the "ponding" and privilege being *joint* property of the Rileys, Buck and Boardman. This mill seems to have given to that part of Newington which was taken up after the sawmill was put in operation there the name of "Saw-Mill Farms."

In December, 1713, Joshua Robbins, Jr., Eliphalet Dickinson and Ebenezer Dickinson, united in a petition to the Town, wherein they allege that they have "found a convenient place for a saw-mill, on our commons, viz.: between Tree Plain and Deming's Plain, on the brook between those plains," and they ask for liberty to erect a sawmill there, and "to turn some streams near by said brook." Their request was granted. This site was within the present limits of Rocky Hill, and the subject will be further discussed in the chapter relating to that town.

Between 1755 and 1786, several permits were granted by the Town for the erection of a sawmill at "The Folly," but it does not appear on

record that anything was there effected. One of the busiest sawmills was that built as an annex to the Chester (or Adams) gristmill, about 1820—now discontinued. Ozias Griswold put up one on “Two Stone,” or Collier Brook, in Griswoldville, which, about 1815, was demolished to give place to a fulling mill.

*Windmills; Windmill Hill.*—The wind as a motive power was used for gristmills, long before water was applied to the same purpose. Windmills have been employed for grinding grain, in several places in Wethersfield. One, perhaps more, was on “Windmill Hill;” commonly called to-day, “Wolcott Hill.” I suppose it to have been the “mill and grinding stone, farm,” etc., mentioned by Rich. Treat, Sen., in his will dated Feb. 13th, 1668-9; in which he devises it to his son James. Mr. Treat’s land, on Windmill Hill, was a tract of 139 acres, extending from what is now Tando’s Brook, on the east, to the Wilderness, one and one-half miles, on the west. The Wolcott Hill road had not then been laid out; nor was it laid out till 1686. Treat’s mill probably stood near the site of the house lately of Robert Robbins’ heirs; and there are indications that Capt. Joshua Robbins, in the middle, or latter part of the eighteenth century, had such a mill there.

Windmills have also, within the memory of people now living stood near the River south of the Pratt’s Ferry road.

As early as 1659, Josiah Churchill recorded a deed of land which he had bought of Mr. [Charles] Taintor, in the Little West Field on the south side of the present Jordan Lane. The lot was described as bounded west by land (formerly) of Samuel Ireland; and east by the “Mills.” Although the outflow of the “Great Swamp” was then southerly and in this vicinity (instead of across the main highway, at The Folly, as at present)—it is not probable that any water mill existed on the Taintor lot, at the date in question. The only plausible explanation of the word “Mills,” is that reference was made to *windmills*.

*Brick Mills* (or kilns) were erected at a very early period in the Town’s history. Their remains are to be found in several places in Wethersfield and Rocky Hill. In June, 1653, Matthew Williams employed Samuel Dickinson to assist him in making brick, and paid him therefor 6*d.* a day “in wampum.” D. being then a lad of 16, probably did not receive a man’s full wages. JOHN HUNNIWELL, received by Town vote, 25 March, 1680, “liberty to fence in a yard, to make and burn bricks, in some convenient place in the Towne land, on the west side the brook, by Leonard Dix’s; and to have the use of it as long as he shall follow the trade of making bricks in that place.”—(*W. T. V.*, I, 169.) This, Judge Adams supposes to have been on the west side of

Tando's Brook, near the road going to Wolcott's Hill, and on land now owned by Hon. Silas W. Robbins. The latest kiln worked in Wethersfield, but now abandoned, was that just south of the Folly. In the earlier days brick buildings were not common, and chimneys were sometimes laid up in stone. It is noticeable that, as early as 1685, the size of bricks varied so greatly that the General Court felt it necessary to establish, by law, a uniform size of  $9 \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  inches—evidently larger than now in present use.

*Bricklaying and Stone Cutting, etc.*—Dec. 10, 1806, SETH DICKINSON and SAMUEL GALPIN advertise themselves as in this business.

*Tanneries.*—The tanning and curing of the skins of cattle and goats was an important industry, regulated by law as early as 1640. Farmers generally took the pelts of their slaughtered animals to the local tanneries, and from the hides, they had the boots, shoes and other leathern articles of domestic use, made up as their needs called for. Sheepskins were prepared by "fellmongers"—of whom Samuel Smith, one of the wealthiest men in Wethersfield, was one in 1646. In February, 1672, John Smith, was, by Town vote, admitted an inhabitant, to "set up his trade of tanning in this Town." There have been four or five tanneries in Wethersfield (including Rocky Hill), two of which, Abraham Crane's and that of Justus Riley, on Broad Street (and managed by Daniel Russell) are within the memory of some still living. The *Conn. Courant*, of Nov. 18, 1793, contains Crane's advertisement "for two tanners, and two active lively boys as apprentices." Tanning, indeed, was almost a hereditary occupation in the earlier generations of the Crane family.

*Boot and Shoemakers.*—[*Ephraim Williams' Account Book*, No. 4, covering period between 1746 and '60, inclusive, is most interesting. He was a descendant of Matthew and Susannah Williams, of Rocky Hill, and the book was long in possession of his great grandson, the late Charles Williams of Rocky Hill. Ephraim was a tanner, currier and shoemaker. He resided in Wethersfield, and must have done a very large business there, in tanning leather, and the making of all kinds of boots and shoes, and in repairing the same. Besides a large local patronage, he had as customers, Nath. Dewey, Johnthan Smith, Abner Moseley, John Holden, John Kimberley, Ruth Hollister, Tho. Matson, Hez. Bidwell, David Hubbard, Sam. Price, Gideon Goodrich, William Fox, Tho. Treat, John Bartlett, David Goodrich and Sam. Goodrich, all of *Glastonbury*; Thos. Stanley, Jun., Josiah Kilbourn, Josiah Hart and Nathan Judd, of *Farmington*; and of persons even farther removed from Wethersfield. His Account Book,



therefore, contains many little "side-lights" upon his neighbors and customers, which do not pertain strictly to his own business-calling, yet are invaluable helps to our understanding of things as they then existed. Thus, we get, incidentally, the information that Col. Chester owned a "slay" (sleigh); that Ezekiel Porter's wife wore "purple shoes;" that William Rhodes wore tow-cloth at 2s. per yard; that Col. Elisha Williams paid £2. 5s. for "scouring the brasses," and "culering and eyling the tackling of the shase" (chaise), and that he also had a pair of shoes made "for his Pallintine" (undoubtedly a servant, who was one of those Palatine emigrants from the Old World, who came to this country, during the Seventeenth Century); that Col. Chester, in 1748, paid £1-12 for a pair of shoes for "Madam Chester," and the same price for "your Negro Wench's;" that Capt. Josiah Griswold's sword scabbard cost 3s.; and Return Belding's [sword] Belt, 6s.; that Col. Israel Williams, of Hartford, paid £4 for double-channelled pumps, and the same for German pumps, while for a pair of double channelled *boots* he paid £14 (extravagant old gentleman!); that Mrs. Joseph Smith's *red* shoes cost £2. 10s.; and the case for Col. Chester's sword cost 10s.; etc., etc.; while Capt. Jona. Robbins had several pairs of *silk* shoes made for his daughters Mary and Elizabeth, and his son Appleton wore pumps!

Mogasons (Moccasins) made at £1. 5s., each, Mary Warner had them made for her negro.

His customers, many of them, paid "in kind," *i. e.*, in goods and produce of various sorts, and swapped accounts with him, to their mutual satisfaction; as well as to ours, for it was the means of preserving to us the *prices* of various articles.

Thus, Joseph Webb, the merchant, paid in such articles as shalloon, calamineo, spelling books, cotton, hats, etc.: William Rhodes paid in *weaving*, at the following rates, plain cloth, 2s. 6d. per yd.; linen cloth, 2s.; check shirting, 3s.; kersey, 2s. 6d.; woolen blankets, 2s. 6d.; Col. Chester frequently paid in *grain*, "*meslin*" (muslin?), *hides*, *Justice's fees*, etc.; John Robbins, Jr., made in 1752, 58 barrels of cider for Mr. Williams; while (probably for Mr. Williams' use in his own business) Benjamin Trumbull of Hebron made, in one year, 9 dozen of wooden heels for shoes; and David Beadle made "Gloshes" (galoshes) at 15s. pr. pair.

Then this old Account Book gives us the prices of various articles of leather and of work in leather, viz.: curing a horse hide, 18s.; curing a dog skin (4 done for Chas. Churchill), 4s. 6d.; sole leather, 8 to 10s. pr. lb.; "Blacking a hide of upper leather, 5s.;" wooden heels for girls'

shoes, £1. 6*d.*; a pair of "slick downs" (whatever they may be?), 3*s.*; "leathering pair of speckticles," 4*s.*; a large sheepskin for boy's breeches, 15*s.*; sheepskin for a "pillion," 10*s.*; Men's shoes, 1748, £2-10; in 1755, £3; in 1756, £4; Women's shoes, 1748, £2; skins tanned and cured, £1. 1*s.* or at 15*s.*; curing calf skins, 4*s.*; and one side of upper leather, 10*s.*; making pair of leather breeches, 4*s.* 6*d.*

"Ledger A," of the old firm of Elisha Williams and Co., in Wethersfield, in 1738, gives us the following prices worth noting in connection with subjects treated of in proceeding chapter, viz: Chocolate, 13<sup>s</sup> per lb.; oats, 3<sup>s</sup> per bushel; turnips, 2/6 per bu.; flax-seed, 7/6 per bushel; onions,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; wheat 9<sup>s</sup> per bushel in 1739; Indian corn, 5 to 9<sup>s</sup> per bushel; sugar 11<sup>s</sup> per lb. in 1745; tobacco, 6<sup>d</sup> per lb; also 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>d</sup>; Beeswax, 3<sup>s</sup>, 10<sup>d</sup> per lb.; barley, 3<sup>s</sup>, 6<sup>d</sup> per bushel; malt from barley, 9<sup>s</sup> per bushel; pickled codfish, £16 per barrel; Sea Coal, for blacksmithing, 15<sup>s</sup>, 6<sup>d</sup>. per bushel.

THOMAS HURLBUT was a shoemaker in Wethersfield from 1758 until his death; JOSEPH Fo[R]BES shaved and whitened skins of leather; THOMAS DEMING, currier, advertises sole leather and wants oak bark, 1793; as also does J. GUILL in 1804; SELDEN MINER advertises his commencing business, 4th July, 1805, at twenty rods North the Meeting House, and was still in business in 1813; GOODRICH & HARRISON, JOSEPH S. BOARDMAN, HENRY NEWBURY were shoe dealers in 1826; L. HART in 1829; MERRITT BUTLER, 1832; JOHN H. WEBBER, 1838.—*H. R. S.*]

*Blacksmiths.*—A "smithy" was, in early times, a much more important establishment than now. Until a comparatively recent date, not only were axes, chisels, spades and other tools wrought by hand, at the blacksmith's forge and anvil; but even nails, spikes, bolts, etc., were made in like manner. Even slitting-mills (for preparing nail-rods and other iron bars) were unknown in Connecticut until 1716. Among the earliest blacksmiths in Wethersfield were HENRY BUCK and THOMAS HURLBUT. To the former, the Town in 1658, gave a piece of land for his shop. It was on the common near the present Cove, and a house was given him at the same time.—*W. T. V.*, I, 74.

In later times, we find the names of the following blacksmiths and iron-workers: ————Stevenson, mentioned in Oct., 1764. Stephen Mygate, 1815; William Goodrich, Sept., 1790, made marlin-spikes, bolts, crowbars, nails and repairs for the schooner *Recovery*; Joseph Blinn and Thaddeus Stoddard in June, 1803, dissolved partnership; Daniel Belden, 1750.

*Charcoal* until the introduction of "sea coals," some sixty years ago, was the only fuel used for the blacksmith's forge. Although no coals are now made in Wethersfield, the time has been when the business of burning them was a considerable industry. The earliest mention I find of them is under date of 13 Dec., 1677, when "Goodman [Thomas] Hurlburt's "cole kill" is incidentally referred to, in designating a boundary line of William Clark's home lot.<sup>1</sup> The coal-pit, as we would now call it—was near the brook, on the east side; at the rear, or west end of Hurlburt's home lot, which was on the west side of the road then called Bell lane; now the south end of Main Street. I suppose it was because of the number of coal-pits there, that Collier Swamp received its name, as early, at least, as 1705.

*Pipe-staves.*—The manufacture of these was one of the chief industries of our early history. The General Court, in 1641, provided that the timber therefor should not "be fallen within three myles of the Matabezeke river;" which stream, at that time, was largely within Wethersfield bounds. It also required the staves to be 4 ft. 4 in. long, 4 in. wide, at least, and one inch thick. The timber used was mostly oak, and the staves and heads were put into bundles, or "shooks," and shipped to the West Indies, and other foreign ports; there to be used for pipes and casks, for rum, molasses, sugar, etc. They were largely exported from Connecticut, down to late in the last century. They were split or "rived," and not sawn.

In June, 1641, Wethersfield was allowed to export 30,000 pipe-staves, and Hartford and Windsor 20,000 each. In 1677, the name "Pipestave Swamp," in the north central part of what is now Newington, appears in the records, as a self-explaining title for a considerable section, near the center of which a sawmill was, at about that time, established.

Many of these staves were gotten out from timber growing on the common lands of the Town; which led to the passage of by-laws for the preservation of the Town's timber. In 1695, Joseph and Benjamin Churchill got out a quantity of staves, which were seized and confiscated by the Town; but were afterwards magnanimously released. In the following year, 5,000 were taken from Thomas Wickham; but released, on the ground that Wickham supposed he had cut the timber within Middletown bounds.

Pipestaves were required by law to be 4 feet 4 inches long, 4 inches wide, and half an inch, at least, in thickness; to be inspected by a person chosen by the town.

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<sup>1</sup> *Weth. Town Votes*, I, p. 153.

*Coopers.*—NATHAN SMITH was evidently one. Mr. Jona Bulkely employed and credits him "for six flower Barrils, 12s. and for hooping 6 barrels, 4s-8d.;" CALEB GRISWOLD, among other things furnished "powdering tubs," used to pickle meat in.

*Fulling Mills.*—The earliest articles fulled (with fullers' earth, then imported from England or Holland) were: serges, stuffs, kerseys, lindsey woolseys, woven upon the family loom. Cloth *dressing* was not attempted until many years later.

ZACHARIAH SEYMOUR, son of Richard, of Hartford, came to Wethersfield, from Farmington, before 1680. In March, 1697, the Town gave him liberty to place a Fulling Mill "upon the brook southwest from Capt. [John] Chester his lot; and to make a dam for a sufficient pond;" the work to be done within 18 months thereafter. It is believed by the writer that he built such a mill just southwest of the present "Mill" (Chester's) pasture; where a long trench is still seen along the dividing line between the wood lots lately of Welles Adams, deceased, and the Griswold lots. But it may have been further up the stream, where it flows through Griswoldville; near the conference of Two-Stone (or Collier) and Hang-Dog brooks.

A Fulling Mill (sometimes two) has been maintained in Griswoldville, from time immemorial, until about 1850. It is supposed Jacob Griswold (father of Maj. Josiah), who settled there about 1712, was a fuller. Maj. Josiah Griswold, who died in 1769, built one in Haddam, it is said; and his son, Josiah, who died in 1774, had one in the old red wooden buildings, built about 1760, and demolished in 1884, just west of the dwelling house of Jacob Griswold's heirs, in Griswoldville. Subsequently to Josiah Griswold's death the business was carried on at the same place until 1847, by Jacob, Justus, Thomas and other members of the Griswold family, who added to it the business of dying and cloth-dressing.—(See *Cloth Dressing*.)

About 1815, Ozias Griswold, son of Maj. Josiah, put up a Fulling Mill, near the dam at the foot of Stanley Griswold's home lot. It was placed on the site of an old sawmill, belonging to Ozias. About 1825, Thomas Griswold, Sen., son of Ozias, Thomas Griswold, Jr., and Justus Griswold, being partners as Thomas Griswold & Co., added satinet weaving to operations of the establishment. They also, about 1830, built a dam on Hang-Dog brook, diverting that stream, so that its waters were added to those of Two-Stone brook; on which the mill stood. The remains of the dam may still be seen, back in the pasture, southwest of the site of the satinet mill. The business of fulling here



ceased, with the other operations, in 1850.—(See *Satinet Weaving, Cloth Dressing, Knitting.*)

It should be added that, with one or two exceptions, Seymour's Fulling Mill was the most ancient in the Colony. There is said, however, to have been one in Hartford in 1690; and Heckley's, at New London, was built in 1693.

THOMAS TOUSLEY (now Toucey), ancestor of Gov. Isaac Toucey, came to Wethersfield about 1674. He was a fuller, and may have had a Fulling Mill there; as he certainly (in company with Wm. Pitkin) had one in Hartford, some years later.

There is an old trench through "Harriss" lot, both n. and s. of Daniel's Bridge, Griswoldville. This may have led from Seymour's Fulling Mill.

*Carding and Weaving.*—Wool carding (which precedes the process of spinning) was done by hand, for many years; just as the tow of hemp and flax had to be hatched or hackled, by hand, before being spun. Hand looms, for weaving serges, kerseys, flannels, fustians and "stuffs," of wool; linsey-woolseys, of wool and flax, combined; buckrams, Osnaburgs, and other linen fabrics, from flax; tow-cloth, from hemp; dimities, gingham, cotton-checks, jeans and other textile fabrics, from "cotton-wool"—were in the hands of some families. Hemp and flax were probably the earliest materials woven here. Before the extermination of wolves, wool-growing was not largely carried on. Cotton was carded, spun and woven, earlier than wool.

The first weaver whose name we find in Wethersfield, is RICHARD SMITH, who came up from Pequott (New London) in February, 1656-7, and was then voted an inhabitant, and given land for his home-lot. But it is probable that one or more weavers were in Wethersfield 15 years earlier. Many families had spun thread from the tow of hemp and flax before the advent of Smith to the place.

THOMAS GRISWOLD & Co. (Thomas Griswold, Sen., Justus Griswold and Tho. Griswold, Jun.) were the first to introduce the power-loom in Wethersfield. They began in 1831 (some say in 1825), in the old fulling and cloth-dressing mill built in 1815, and described under the head of *Cloth-dressing*. They wove large quantities of satinete; the product of their looms, in 1845, (together with those at Newington?) having been 43,000 yards. About 1847, J. Welles Griswold, son of Justus, succeeded to the business, which he continued until 1849; when he began stockinet-knitting in the same establishment, and the weaving of satinete wholly ceased. Machine-made stockinet underclothing were made here, the material being wool and wool and cotton combined. J.

Welles Griswold, with his brother, Charles K. Griswold, in 1850, discontinued the business here, and transferred their machinery to the re-built "Brick" factory; which, after it was burnt down, they had purchased from the trustees of the insolvent Griswoldville Manufacturing Co. Here they continued, doing a thriving business, until 1865, when they sold to Austin Dunham & Co., of Hartford. In the meantime, they had introduced steam power, as auxiliary to their water power. The Dunhams ran the works for several years; but did not vigorously push them. They soon sold them to J. Welles Griswold and his sister, Mrs. John Holt, who were the owners in 1884. This factory has been idle for some years.

The J. Welles Griswold Co. was succeeded in time by J. Welles & Chas. K. Griswold. In 1845, the output of the Wethersfield mills was 43,000 yds. of satinet, consuming 35,250 pounds of wool, and during the same year 20,000 pounds of cotton-batting was produced in the town.

In Newington, we find Ensign JOHN WYATT, weaver in 1694; and THO. COUCH.

*Cloth-Dressing, Clothiers and Tailors.*—The dressing of cloth by "clothiers," was probably not attempted in this State, until about 100 years ago. Ozias Griswold, born in 1736, is said to have been a clothier. But this is doubtful; since his son, Thomas, went to Hartford to learn the trade of one Barnard. Cloth-dressing and dyeing was done by THOMAS, JUSTUS and JAMES GRISWOLD, in a building, erected for the purpose, about 1815, by their father, Ozias Griswold. It stood on the present site of Capt. Thomas Williams' factory building (unused), a little below the dam on the homestead of Stanley Griswold's heirs, at Griswoldville. It was a red, wooden structure; in which fulling was also done. It was this building in which satinet weaving was begun; at a later date. Cloth-dressing was done here until about 1850. This mill was demolished in 1884; and on its site a gristmill was erected, by the heirs of Capt. Thomas Williams. It is probable that a fulling-mill stood there before the one built by Josiah Griswold and that his mill was used for cloth-dressing, by Thomas Griswold, Sen., as early as 1795. The same business was continued there by Thomas, Jacob and Justus Griswold, until 1847, or later; when the manufacturing of edge-tools was begun there. Among the other processes of cloth-dressing was that of *teasling*; whereby a nappe was produced on the cloth, by causing it to pass over revolving cylinders, on which the seed-tops of teasels were arranged. Large crops of teasels were grown in Wethersfield. The

operation still has the same name; but wire cards or brushes are largely used to effect the same purpose.

In connection with this subject of "clothiers and tailors" we may mention DAVID GOODRICH, 1730; THOMAS & JAMES GRISWOLD, Oct., 1807; A. WEBSTER, 1859, and OBED PULSIFER, 1864. Nor must we overlook JOHN MARSH, who, in Apl., 1761, was credited on Mr. Jonathan Bulkeley's account book, with "making one pair of Leather Breeches—4s. 6d.,"—which price was certainly not high, according to present standards of value; at a later period SAMUEL GOODRICH made "leather breeches, also a Great Coat and a Jacket of Kersey;" and LOVELAND & LATIMER, of 1860, were probably the successors of the business of JOHN LOVELAND, of 1831.

*Hat Factories.*—Of this industry, we have but little data. [ELISHA WOLCOTT, gt-gd-son of Samuel Wolcott 2d, after some service in the army at New York in the summer and autumn of 1776, is said, at Gen. Washington's suggestion, to have returned to his home in Wethersfield for the purpose of making hats for the soldiers—and one of the "hat blocks" used by him in this manufacture, at the old Samuel Wolcott (present Bourne) house, is still in possession of his descendants.—*Letter of Mrs. J. W. Griswold.*]

Capt. JOHN PALMER'S works on the east side of Broad Street, were the last in operation here. He "felted" large quantities of the fur of muskrats; and made hat bodies which he took to New York to sell. He employed four or five apprentices, besides other employees. Timothy Clark of Rocky Hill was a hatter, 1804.

*Straw Braiding.*—In 1819 and '20, Miss SOPHIA WOODHOUSE (afterwards Mrs. Gurdon Welles) was awarded a premium from "the Hartford County Society for Promoting Agriculture and Domestic Manufactures," for the best "Grass Bonnett," plaited by herself.

In 1821, letters patent of the U. S. were granted to her (she being then the wife of Gurdon Welles) as the inventor of a "new and useful improvement in the manufacture of Grass Bonnets and Hats." The specification shows that the improvement consisted in both the treatment and the use of a *new material*, for the purpose above stated. The stalk above the upper joint of certain grasses commonly growing in Wethersfield, to-wit: "Spear grass," or "English spear grass" and "red top" (the former preferred), was boiled until the sheath would slip off; then bleached, with a solution of pearl-ash; then fumigated with sulphur; then plaited like the Leghorn braid. Great skill was attained in the several processes; and the Wethersfield "Leghorn Hats" acquired a world wide fame. The wife of President John Quincy Adams was the

recipient of a "Straw Bonnet;" and the President was pleased to write of it that it was "an extraordinary specimen of American Manufacture."<sup>1</sup> The Society of Arts, of London, England, in 1821, sent to Miss Woodhouse a premium of twenty guineas, enclosed in a handsome morocco case, for an exhibited bonnet—which is certified to have been "superior in color and fineness, to the best Leghorn Straw."

*Ropes and Cordage.*—It is uncertain when the manufacture of cordage from hemp was begun in Wethersfield. Hemp was raised there as early as 1640; and ropes made from it were used for the rigging of vessels.

About a hundred years ago, JONATHAN BILL of Stepney parish had a rope walk, a little north of the Landing at Rocky Hill. He sold it to James Church of Hartford, in September, 1800. The latter continued it until about 1827; under the management of John Chauncey; when the works were removed to Hartford. The works were on the five acre tract belonging to the Town, and which had been reserved for a ship-yard, etc. *Samuel Bill & Co.* (S. Bill & Wait Robbins) advertise a dissolution of partnership, Jan. 1, 1805; *Elisha Church* was in business, 1790.

ASHER ROBBINS, Esq., built a "Hemp-mill" and rope walk in 1830, near the site of the present mattress factory, on Sucker brook. It was a fine establishment, but it led to the financial ruin of Mr. Robbins, who was a lawyer by profession. John Chauncey was its superintendent. In 1834, the rope works were sold to James and James Church, Jun., of Hartford; who removed them to that place. The hemp-mill was bought by Henry Harris, who converted it to a wagon factory; which, in a few years, was consumed by fire. The Hewitt-mattress factory was on its site; was rebuilt near the R. R. station, where it is now operated. The building containing the rope walk, which was southeast of the hemp-mill, was sold in sections.

*Stocking Factory.*—JAMES WALLACE, in May, 1776, was engaged in the manufacture of stockings, "in both the silk-cotton thread, and the

<sup>1</sup> March 6th, 1821. At Washington, Mr. John B. Hurd, of New York, called at the office [Department of State] \* \* \* I spoke to him also, of a straw bonnet, made at Weathersfield, sold some months since at New York, as an extraordinary specimen of American manufacture, which Hurd bought and sent as a present to my wife. I told Hurd that, while, in the public situation which I hold, I make it a principle to accept no valuable present from any one, it was very harsh to interdict the acceptance of presents offered to my wife; and it gave me pleasure to see her giving countenance, according to our means, to the productions or ingenuity of our country. I had, therefore, consented to her acceptance of his present."—*Memoirs of John Quincy Adams*, V, p. 319.

See also Mrs. Earle's *Home Life in Colonial Days*, p. 260.



worsted way;" as appears from a petition then preferred to the General Assembly, asking for a bounty for his encouragement. The request was denied.<sup>1</sup>

*Chemicals.*—The earliest articles made from chemical compounds were homemade. They were soap (soft), gunpowder and perhaps some others. Certain *non*-chemical productions were made by very many families. They were such as beeswax, bayberry-tallow, dye-stuffs (from safflower blossoms, bark of the oak and maple, etc.), black-ball (for shoes); ointments, and other simple products for common use.

Potash was made, in 1815, or earlier, at the south end of Broad Street. In 1831, the late Dr. ERASTUS F. COOKE and others were incorporated as "The Eagle Laboratory Company." Their works (now put to other uses) still exist. For some years they did a large business in the manufacture of saltpetre, copperas, etc.; but it eventually proved unprofitable to its owners. A portion of their works consisted of a glass room about 40 by 20 feet in size.

*Saltpetre.*—In January, 1776, DANIEL HINSDALE, of Hartford, and SAMUEL BOARDMAN of Wethersfield, both merchants—formed a co-partnership under the firm name of Samuel Boardman & Co., for the manufacture of saltpetre. They had their works about opposite the late Stephen Willard's at the lower, or south end, of Broad St., Wethersfield; between the highways which skirt that broad Green. They had potash kettles in their establishment; and it may be that they also made potashes. That they made large quantities of saltpetre is evident from the account, which the writer has seen, of the number of loads of earth (taken from under old barns and stables) to be used in the manufacture of the article. It must have commanded a high price, as gunpowder could not be made without it. Three shillings per load was paid for the earth used.

*Book Printing.*—In the early part of the present century, ABEL DEMING was a printer in Wethersfield.

The late Alfred Francis, Esq., and William Boardman (father of Wm. F. J.), together published several works. One of them, now before the writer, is a *Life of Thomas Jefferson*, 8 vo., 556 pp., by B. L. Rayner; purporting to have been published at New York, "By A. Francis and W. Boardman;" in 1832. It is an octavo volume of 556 pages; and the work is exceedingly well executed. It was printed in the building now the dwelling house on the northeast corner of Main and Gurdon Streets. Some of the works of Frederick Butler, A. M.,

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<sup>1</sup> U. S. Patent Office Reports, 1850, p. 455.

and of Mr. Emerson, the teacher, were also printed in Wethersfield. Among books published by Wethersfield men, at a later date, we find: *Three Years' Wanderings of a Connecticut Yankee*, by C. M. Wells, New York, 1859, pp. 358, and *Life and Death in Rebel Prisons*, by Robert H. Kellogg, Hartford, 1865, 12 m., pp. 398.

*Scroll Sawing; Wood Working.*—WILLIAM ADAMS, Jr., and HIRAM HAVENS, in 1837, began this industry. A dwelling house was drawn from the homestead of the former and placed at the gate of the dam of the Adams gristmill; where circular and scroll saws were put into it, moved by an undershot wheel. About their first work was the preparing the wood work for the interior of the Congregational church; then being renovated. The business was continued until 1844, when the plow works of Hiram Havens succeeded. Subsequently, the building became a mattress factory, and was such until it was consumed by fire.

*Coffee and Spice Mill.*—WILLIAM BOARDMAN, deceased, founder of the great house of Wm. Boardman & Sons, of Hartford, was the first to start the important industry of coffee and spice grinding in this vicinity, if not in the state, about forty years ago, in Wethersfield.—See *Boardman Genealogy*.

*Plow Works.*—In 1843, HIRAM HAVENS began the manufacture of plows for Thomas Smith & Co., of Hartford; now Smith, Bourne & Co. Their plows were mostly for the southern trade; in 1845, they manufactured 1,000.

*Edge Tools; Hammers, etc.*—The "Griswoldville Manufacturing Co.," was incorporated in 1832; the charter members being Thomas Griswold, Sen., Jacob, Justus and Stanley Griswold, and Asher Robbins. In 1837, they built the Brick Factory, in Griswoldville, into which they brought the water from the Reservoir in Deming's Meadow's by a new channel; and with it carried an immense "breast" wheel. They manufactured hammers and edge tools, until the factory burnt down, and the company failed, in 1847. Bailey and Wolcott (Arnold Bailey and Oliver Wolcott) then purchased the business, and transferred the works to the old dye-house and cloth-dressing establishment, in the old red wooden building next west of Jacob Griswold's house. Wolcott soon left the business and Bailey carried it on alone for the last three years of its existence; closing in 1865.

About 1830, Hosea Bulkeley, the then owner of the old Bulkeley gristmill at Dividend, sold the mill to a Mr. Russell of Middletown, who began the manufacture of axes. About 1835, the business passed into the hands of Israel Williams, William Butler and others; soon

afterwards, and, about 1842, was bought by Gen. Leonard R. Welles and Alfred Wilcox, who added to their list chisels and "plantation hoes." After Mr. Wilcox's death, the property was sold to Amos Whitney and Chas. E. Billings, the latter of whom now owns and occupies the old works as a branch of the Pratt & Whitney factory of Hartford. During the year 1884, the Billings & Edwards (now the Spencer & Billings) Co. erected a very substantial brick factory on the premises for the manufacture of mechanics' tools.

*Tin and Pewter Ware.*—The history of the beginning of this industry, by Capt. THOMAS DANFORTH, at Rocky Hill, is given in our Rocky Hill Chapter

*Pin Factory.*—In 1775, LEONARD CHESTER, then 25 years of age, and a brother of Col. John Chester, applied to the General Assembly for a bounty "interest fee" for his encouragement in the manufacture of pins, an industry "never before attempted in this country." A committee was thereupon appointed to consider and make report upon the matter. It found Mr. Chester had six men employed in the business, and that he had expended more than £1,700 in providing tools, machines and materials for carrying on the manufacture of pins;" and it recommended that the state allow him a bounty of three pence per pound on manufactured pins. These articles were then made, as is generally known, with a round head, so loose as to be easily separated from the shaft. Chester (Leonardus), as he signs himself in his petition, was probably the earliest maker of them in this state. He died in 1803.<sup>1</sup> See *U. S. Patent Office Report*, 1850, p. 442.

*Foundries.*—An Iron Foundry for small castings was established in 1849, in the old carriage factory of Neff & Merriam, a little below the Landing at Rocky Hill. The owners were ROBERT SUGDEN and others, who had organized under the name of *The Rocky Hill Manufacturing Company*. About two years later they sold the works to Geo. W. Hartley, Esq., who was unsuccessful in the undertaking. The latter was succeeded by John G. Mix, of Hartford, who carried on the business of "rectifying" cider; making what was known to the trade as "champagne cider." Mix was succeeded in his industry by James Warner and ———— Blin, associated as Warner & Blin.

In April, 1854, BUTLER & SUGDEN (Wm. Sage Butler and Robert Sugden) established a foundry at Dividend. They made large quantities of cast iron shears and scissors and were the pioneers of this business in this country. Their goods were sold all over the United States

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<sup>1</sup> *State Archives, Un. Industry* Vol. II, 155.

and Canada; and they were so successful that importations of these articles (previously considerable) wholly ceased.

In 1863, Mr. Sugden purchased the interest of his co-partner, and continued the business until 1865; when the works were destroyed by fire; the work of an incendiary. Sugden and Butler then reunited in business; rebuilt the works and shortly thereafter sold them to Steven Brown & Co., of Cromwell. The latter soon became insolvent and in addition the buildings were destroyed by fire. They were never rebuilt.

*Carriage-Making.*—Only the oldest factory of this kind that of NEFF & MERRIAM (William Neff and Edward Merriam) will be mentioned here. They located about 1830 a few rods below The Landing Place, at Rocky Hill, in buildings subsequently used by Sugden & Butler, as a foundry. The products of this factory were almost exclusively sold in the Southern States, and in 1839, they established at Wilmington, N. C., a “repository” for the sale of their carriages. Neff sold out to Merriam, by whom the business was continued until his death, at the South, about 1849. The property passed into the hands of the Rocky Hill Manufacturing Co.—which existed about five years; and it was then sold to T. & E. S. Belden. Its site is now occupied by H. H. Grant, as a coal yard.

From 1842 until 1847 or '48 T. B. ROGERS manufactured carriages; and, about the same time Joseph Porter, of West Rocky Hill, was engaged in the same line of business.

*Other Industries*, such as *cabinet and chairmaking; coffin—harness and mattress-making* (the last a large business conducted by the HEWITT BROS.), *shelf-hardware* (1881) which has since passed into the hands of the Pierce Hardware Co.—have been carried on at different times, and with varying degrees of success, in this town—which our limits will not permit us to treat of in detail.

[*Dry Goods.*—In the olden time of which we speak, there were, unless in the towns and cities, no so-called *Dry Goods* stores. All the country and most of the town stores were then devoted to general merchandise. Under this heading of *dry goods*, we, therefore, shall only attempt to convey to our readers the kinds and character of the dress and domestic goods sold in the stores in places like Wethersfield. “An attempt” we must call it, since time has dimmed our knowledge of what goods were meant by the *names* which have long been disused; such as *Barcelona Handkerchiefs*, *Barlow Penknives*, @ 20s. per doz.; *Barrican* [“Berri-gan”] a cloth resembling camelot; *Buckram*, @ 8d. per yd., lately revived



and much used in book-binding; *Calamanco* ["Calamin-ko"] a woolen cloth, originally made of camels' hair (Low Latin, *Calamancus*); *Castor Hats*; *Cocaback*, 1756; *Death Head Buttons*; *Durance* (possibly the same as Durey (*Dusant* from "*Durer*,")) "to last," a stout cloth, stiff, like leather, of which Dorothy—furnished the merchant a quantity, at £12; *Ferret*, a flowered silk (tape) Fr. *flouret*; *Fustian*, a coarse cloth; *German Serge*; *Lutestring*, worsted; *Osnaburg* (called sometimes "Osnabrig"); *Padusoy*, a silk originally manufactured at Padua, Italy; *Prussianette*, @ £2, 10d. for 28 yds.; *Patches*, of cambric; "*Poukenus*," @ 5s. per doz.; *Pownges*, some sort of dish; *Rands*, insoles for shoes?; *Redwood*, logwood, sold by Ed. Howard, @ 3 s. per pd.; *Ratinett*, (old Fr. *Ratin*.) a thin woolen twilled; *Rummer*, a sort of short goblet, in which to take a hot whiskey?; *Sagathec* ["Sagathy"]; *Silk Lunge*; *Spotted Swanskin*; *Spincl*, a spindle, or collection of hanks of yarn; *Tamine* (Tanning), Fr. *Tamire* a sieve? or "Tammy," a woolen cloth; *Taffeta* (Taffety). We must confess our ignorance of the nature of some of these dry goods.

[*General Merchandise*.—Of enterprising merchants, of signal ability and large capital, Wethersfield has, in her day, had a great number. Among them (in addition to others already spoken of elsewhere, we may mention SILAS DEANE, who, in 1765, offers "a quantity of choice Brandy, which he will part with at a very low rate for cash, either by the hogshead, barrel or keg," also Hemp seed 20s. per bu.; and in 1768, and later he was a large dealer in flour. DAMARAS FRAZIER kept a store in 1759; JOSEPH WEBB, elsewhere mentioned, merchant and storekeeper, 1786; ELISHA BOARDMAN, 1796; RILEY, WRIGHT & Co., 1783; JOHN WOODHOUSE, 1787; JASON & JUSTUS ROBBINS, 1806; MAY & STILLMAN, about 1810; SIMEON BELDEN & SON, 1814; LEVI BUTLER & Co. kept store on Broad Street as late as 1803, and in 1793, paid cash for flax seed, old silver, pewter and beeswax; in 1798, were located four doors south of Meeting house; HENRY DEMING, who d. 1798, æ. 47, and whose business was continued by his widow, Anna Deming "& Co.," 12 July of that yr. "with an extensive assortment of European and India goods;" also ROBBINS & WILLIAMS; LOCKWOOD BELDEN; JOSEPH HALE, Dr. ASHBEL ROBERTSON and JESSE GOODRICH, who all flourished about 1818 and '19.

*Slaughter Houses*.—Butchering was a more important business in early times, than at present, inasmuch as large quantities of salt beef and pork were exported from this and other River Towns. The first recorded grant of license for setting up a slaughter house in Wethersfield was in 1680 to Ens. John Stedman. It was set up on Town land.

*Distilleries.*—John Stewart's in 1775, is the earliest of which any mention is found, though it is probable that there were others still earlier. One below the Landing, at Rocky Hill, for making "rye gin," is still remembered. Also one owned by Capt. Wait Robbins, near his house, west of Goffe's brook. This latter made cider-brandy. In 1820, there were five in Wethersfield proper.

[*Bakers.*—Bakers, as understood at the present day, were not a necessity in the economy of domestic life, since every housewife made her own bread, cake, etc. But, during the days of Wethersfield's maritime prosperity (and especially in the Rocky Hill section) there was a large and steady demand for "sea bread," or biscuit, for the supply of the numerous vessels sailing hence to the West Indies, or other foreign ports; and there were some persons who engaged largely and regularly in its manufacture. These bakings were generally "put out" to these parties, who were willing or had the conveniences for making the bread. Jonathan Bulkeley, merchant at Stepney, in his Account Book, under date of 21st Nov., 1770, notes Allen Stillman, "dettor" for 4 Cwt. of Sea Bread, at Twenty Shillings per hundred—£4-00-00; and "half hundred Cornell Bread att Sixteen Shillings p<sup>r</sup>. hundred—£00-08-00." Also, Oct., 1771, Mr. Elias Williams, "dettor for Bakeing Cwt. 1, 2 *qr.*, 14 *lb.* hard Bread, at s.4/6 p<sup>r</sup>. hundred—£00, 7-03." Also, in following month, Mr. Elizur Goodrich, "Dbtr. for Ten Hundred Weight of hard Biskit Bread, @ 20s. p<sup>r</sup>. hundred—£10-04-00. Also, "July 4, 1768, fecht from Mr. Pomeroy's 20 bu. of Wheat to be Ground, and the flower delivered to John Marsh to Bake."—*H. R. S.*]

*Libraries.*—Early in the year, on March 17, 1783, a number of Wethersfield's citizens, among whom were Col. John Chester, Hon. Stephen Mix Mitchell, Mr. Joseph Webb, and Mr. Ezekiel Williams, associated themselves as the

[*"Union Library Society,"* and adopted and printed a small nineteen page pamphlet, containing Constitution, and By Laws, several copies of which are still extant.

It was, during the first years of its existence at least, maintained as a purely and somewhat exclusive *subscription* library, its subscribers being shareholders in the corporation, their shares being assignable, subject to certain conditions. The initial subscription was 20 shillings, and annual dues 4 shillings—tickets of membership were issued to subscribers whose admission, however, was subject to approval of the Directors; rejected applicants being entitled to appeal to the membership at large, within two years ensuing. Col. John Broome and Dr. Jo-

siah Hart were a sort of Executive Committee and Mr. Ezekiel Williams was the first Treasurer. The Library was open for issuing and return of books, for two hours, of every Saturday afternoon, fortnightly; and the length of time allowed to each subscriber for reading the book he selected, was, somewhat strangely, made dependent upon the *size of the volume!* Thus a *folio* might be kept for eight weeks, while an *octavo* (or two duodecimos) volume could be kept only four weeks! But, in view of the self-evident fact that some persons could get through a volume more quickly than others, it was provided that, by obtaining an order, signed by any three of the Directors, such member should have the privilege of taking out *two* octavos, or *four* duodecimos, for a period of four weeks. Members were held to the strictest account for damages to books, and all privileges were denied them, until fines or penalties were paid.

The records of the High Street School District show that, in April, 1784, the upper room of its school house was, by vote of the district, leased to that Society "for the library," and it was also voted that the closet, a small room at the N. W. cor. of the schoolhouse, above stairs, be leased to said Society, to take in and deliver out books, on Saturday afternoon only, for five years. A catalogue of the books in the library, fills eight pages of the pamphlet referred to and shows a collection of 416 volumes, selected from the best works of the day, on a variety of subjects (religious and didactical, being the most prominent) with scarcely a novel among them. And each volume contained a crude book-plate. A later catalogue, issued about 1870, shows that there were then 587 volumes. After the completion of the Academy (erected 1798) the Library was kept in its second story, but as public interest languished, it was broken up and about 1850, the books were sold at public auction.

*The Wethersfield Society Library.*—In 1866, a new and more earnest movement was made toward a public library. Its constitution was framed on that of the Young Men's Institute of Hartford, and the organization was called the Wethersfield Society Library. Its annual membership fee was \$3 for each gentleman and \$2 for a lady—life membership \$25. Sufficient money was raised for a respectable beginning—papers and magazines purchased and a reading room opened.

*The Rose Library.*—A few months later the Society received an offer from Mr. Chauncey Rose of Terre Haute, Ind., a native of Wethersfield, of \$3,000, on condition that it should raise \$500 more. Under the stimulus of this offer, other donations of money and of books, were made, and the Library soon boasted a list of almost 1,600 volumes. Its

first home was in the second story of the building on the corner next south of the Congregational church, but since 1872 it has been kept in the upper room of the Chapel of said church. The late Sherman W. Adams was its president. The library has had its fluctuations of interest and of neglect, but has of late years availed itself of an appropriation from the Town of \$200 per annum, establishing it as a free library, with a small annual appropriation for current expenses; and this with the use of the old Society's books, and the help furnished by the State, serves to keep alive the free public library system of the Town. The present library, now known as "The Free Public Library," is accommodated in the north room of the Academy Building, to which quarters it was removed from the Congregational Chapel, some years ago.

Newington and Rocky Hill, both have interesting library histories, which will be more fully exploited in the chapters relating to those respective towns.—*H. R. S.*]

*Village Improvement Society.*—This was organized in October, 1883, for the purpose of procuring street lights, improving sidewalks and encouraging all attempts towards increasing the attractiveness and comfort of the village. It started in with 173 members, and up to 1899, had expended nearly \$6,000 of which the Town had paid nearly one-third.

*Freemasons.*—Columbia Lodge, No. 25, F. & A. M., was chartered in May 1793, for Stepney Point (Rocky Hill). It is the only one which has existed in Wethersfield township. It now has its hall in Glastonbury, where it has been for many years. John Nott was the first of its Worshipful Masters.

The Constitution of the *Wethersfield Religious Society*, dated Jan. 1, 1817, with list of 15 original members, is a Mss. in possession of Mr. F. W. J. Boardman; as also Articles of the *Female Society of Wethersfield* (religious object) dated 1 Jan., 1814, ten original members.

*The "old Corner Store."*—The earliest recorded mention of this time-honored institution, is in 1789, when it was first moved to the corner of Broad and East Main Sts., and was given by Samuel Riley to Sarah, wife of James Francis. On Nov. 8th, 1791, a part of this lot "S. E. cor., 40 ft. on all sides" was deeded by James and Sarah Francis, "with store" to Samuel Franklin and Wm. J. Robinson, of New York; and by them deeded, 22 Feb., 1792, to Michael and Thomas Bull, of Htfd. A. Riley and Calvin Dodge were the next owners, having rec'd it from the Bulls, 4 Aug., 1798, and in Nov., of the same year, sold it to Moses



Montague, whose wid. Eunice transferred it, 6 Jan. 1813, to William and Gurdon Montague, from whom, within the same month it passed to Joseph Hale, and for many years was used by Adams & Hanmer, as a tobacco warehouse. It was burned March 16th, 1896.

*Wethersfield's Funeral Observances on the occasion of Gen. Washington's Death.*—(*Conn. Courant.*)

Wethersfield, March 4, 1800. As a public testimony of respect to the memory and grief for the incalculable loss of the late General George Washington, on the morning of Saturday, the 22nd ult., agreeably to previous directions given by and under the superintendence of the Committee of Arrangements, the pulpit, canopy, communion table, and galleries of the brick meeting house were hung with black. At nine o'clock a. m., the solemnities of the day were commenced by the tolling of the bell until eleven—the tolling recommenced at one p. m. At two o'clock p. m., the citizens of the three parishes in an unusual concourse assembled, when the following exercises were performed:

1. Was sung the 89th Psalm—the tune adapted to the occasion.
2. An excellent well adapted Prayer, by the Rev. John Marsh, pastor of the first society.
3. A Hymn specially composed for the occasion, and highly expressive of the solemn grief which apparently pervaded the whole assembly.
4. An Oration by Ebenezer G. Marsh, A. M., in which the moral and social virtues of the man of war, were handsomely delineated, and his talents as a soldier and a statesman judiciously contrasted with those of the heroes of ancient times. Of its merits the silent unremitting attention of the numerous auditory was the testimonial.
5. An Anthem from the 14th Chapter of Revelations—"I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, write from henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, even so saith the spirit, for they rest from their labours."

The mourning badge of black crape was generally worn—the Singers, particularly the Ladies, were in a uniform of white, with head dresses of the same colour trimmed with black.

The store of the merchant, the shop of the mechanic were closed, the labour of the husbandman suspended, and the deportment of all ranks of citizens evidenced both their veneration and esteem for the distinguished virtues of, and their inconsolable grief for the death of the Father of their Country."

*The Grange Hall, P. of A.*—Said to be the *first* Grange property in the State, was dedicated September 30, 1898. It first held its meeting, in the Academy; but later in the new building. It is one of, if not *the* largest Granges in the State.

*Taverns.*—These *quasi*-public establishments were more numerous, and of more importance, formerly, than now. There have been times, since the Revolution, when there were three or four Taverns within the present narrow limits, of Wethersfield. Now there is none; the well-remembered May's hotel having been the last.

The first public house may have been kept by John Saddler, on the west side of High St.; being on land he bought of Samuel Clarke, in 1642, or earlier. It seems to have ben a tavern in 1648. Richard Smith, Jr., the ferryman, had a tavern, in 1675, and probably earlier, on the New London road, at the Naubuc terminus of the ferry. John Belden was chosen 'ordinary Keeper,' at a town-meeting, the same year. He had a house on each side of Broad St., but the ordinary was probably in that on the east side. Mr. John Devotion was licensed, in 1713, to keep a "house of entertainment." Benjamin Belden was also licensed the following year. In 1717, Corp. John Francis was licensed to be "tavern-keeper" for the year next ensuing.

In 1781, when Washington and his military associates had their conference in Wethersfield, Stillman's tavern, which stood, until a few years ago, where the house of Dea. R. A. Robbins now stands—was the principal public house in the place; and in it the distinguished company were part of the time entertained.

We are obliged to omit any account of other such houses; whether within the present, or the old limits of the township.

*Population and Wealth.*—The first indication of the comparative wealth of the three River plantations is to be found in an order of the General Court, in 1639; when the sum of £100 to be raised, was appor-tioned among the towns, (the only ones in the Colony, at that time), as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
Hartford—	43	00	00
Windsor	28	06	08
Wethersfield	28	13	04
Total—	£100		

At this same time, the able-bodied men, or those subject to military duty, and called out to engage in the Pequot campaign—were appor-tioned as follows:—

Hartford, 17 men; Windsor, 13 men; Wethersfield, 10 men; forty men in all.

It thus appears that whilst Wethersfield ranked second in wealth, she ranked third in population. In the following year Hartford's tax was £43, and Windsor's and Wethersfield's £28 each. In 1649, Windsor and Wethersfield taxes were still equal; or there was but 10*d.* difference between them. But in the levy of troops at that time Windsor's quota was 11 men, and Wethersfield's 8; that of Hartford being 13 men.

In 1658, the ratio of "Persons and Estates," was as follows:

Hartford, 'Persons,	187; Estates,	20,547£.
Windsor, do.	160; do.	16,209.
Wethersfield do.	163; do.	12,397.

As between Wethersfield and Windsor, the population of the latter, *within the old lines*, has continued to be one-third, or more, greater than that of the former, within *its* old lines. Omitting Beckley's quarter, now in Berlin, and a corner of Marlborough—the inhabitants within the old lines of Wethersfield, in 1880, numbered 8,796; those within the old Windsor lines, 12,400. In this estimate Simsbury is not accounted as ever a part of Windsor. If we take the *present* townships of Windsor and Wethersfield, we shall find about the same ratio of population. The former numbered 3,056 inhabitants in 1880, and the latter 2,173. The grand lists for that year, were respectively as follows:

Windsor, \$1,626,586; Wethersfield, \$1,217,946. But the area of the former is nearly three times as great as that of the latter.

The earliest census the writer has found of Wethersfield, by *parishes*, is that of the year 1779. Comparing that with the census of the same sections, as *towns*, in 1880, we obtain the following results of one hundred years growth:—

	1779	1880
Weth. First Soc., (now Town of Weth.)	1910	2173*
Stepney Soc., (now Town of Rocky Hill)	881	1109
Newington Soc., (now Town of Newington)	508	934
Beckley Quarter (now in Berlin)	278	(say) 300
Totals	3577	4516

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\* Lina then has not materially changed.

RESIDENCE OF  
GEO. B. KELLOGG.



THE HENRY BUCK  
PLACE.



HOME OF GEN. W. T. FENN.



THE HARRIS PLACE.



THE LOCKWOOD HOUSE.



RESIDENCE OF  
HON.  
S. W. ROBBINS



THE WILLIAMS  
PLACE.



THE CHESTER PLACE.

*By Courtesy of The Connecticut Magazine.*

*Photos. by J. G. Standish.*

SOME PRIVATE RESIDENCES IN WETHERSFIELD.





In 1756, Wethersfield's population was 2,483; whereof 109 were Negroes. If to this be added Glastonbury's (1,115), we have as a result 3,598, as the number of inhabitants then within the *old* limits of the township. The whole number at that time within Hartford township, (whose limits then included the present towns of West Hartford, East Hartford and Manchester) was 3,027; showing that ancient Wethersfield was then, numerically considered, the more important of the two towns.

*Small Pox.* This disease, which before Dr. Jenner's discovery of the principle of vaccination was more dreaded than to-day—was early prevalent in Wethersfield; it having been introduced from New York. In 1693, Peter Disborough, of Rye, N. Y., was a victim to it, and several of the people were required to quit the house of Robert Francis, where the patient lay, and be quartered at the home of John Stedman; the town making the latter compensation therefor. (See also *Col. Rec.* V. 477; VI. 264.)

THE PHYSICIANS OF WETHERSFIELD AND NEWINGTON. (Note those of Stepney, now Rocky Hill, are given in Dr. Griswold's History of Rocky Hill—Chapter XIX.) Mr. Austin Robertson, son of one of Wethersfield's honored physicians, has helped us much in making up this list.—H. R. S.

ARCHER, Henry A., (M. D.) born, Carlisle, England, 1820; Came with his father's family to Webster, Mass., in 1824; studied medicine with Dr. Amos Beecher, of Barkhamsted; graduated, Yale Medical School, 1847; received degree of M. D. from Medical College of Ky.; practiced at Wethersfield, Brooklyn, N. Y., and Meriden, Ct.; died, aged 74 years, 7 months; left a daughter, (Mrs. Butler) of Meriden.

ATWOOD, Thomas, 1663-81, see *Atwood Genealogy*, Vol. II.

AYBAULT, Nicholas, 1687-1707; see *Ayrault Genealogy*, Vol. II.

ANDRUS, Joseph, (Newington) 1707-1756—"A shrewd, observing man, who had a very retentive memory—died, 18 Jany., 1756, aged 78.—*Newington Annals*.

BELDEN, Joshua (son of Rev. Joshua) Newington—Settled there, after graduation, about 1781: but, after a time relinquished professional work for farming. See *Belden Genealogy*, Vol. II.

Chauncey, (M. D.), Newington; died, 22 Nov. 1845, aged 41.

L. W. (M. D.), Newington; died, 26 Oct., 1839, aged 38.

BRUCE, Dr. Barwick, from Island of Barbadoes—owned the present Robertson house for 7 years from Nov. 1809, which he sold 1816 to Dr. A. Robertson.

BULKELEY, Rev., et Dr. Gershom, came to Wethersfield, 1667; died 2 Dec., 1713, aged 77: See *Bulkeley Genealogy*, Vol. II; also Chapters VII and this volume.

CURTIS, Thomas, Dr., (traditional) 1639-1681; died, 1681, aged 83: See *Curtis Genealogy*.

FARNSWORTH, Joseph; married at Wethersfield, 1741; wife died, aged 43, in 1760; The *Town Records* contain a certificate of a man's unfitness for military duty, signed by him, and Dr. Porter, in Oct. 1773.

FOX, Roswell, (M. D.), succeeded Dr. A. Robertson, 1847; died, 1898.—See *Fox Genealogy*.

FOX, Edward G., (M. D.), son of Dr. Roswell.—See *Fox Genealogy*. Settled here 1883.

HALL, Dr. Archibald (Newington).

HAND, Rev. A. Baptist minister, at one time in charge of the Baptist Church, in Wethersfield.

HART, Josiah, Dr. (1778-1796), graduated Yale College. : in 1775, enlisted in Conn. Regiment as assistant surgeon and re-enlisted, as surgeon, 1776, in Revolutionary War.—See *Hart Genealogy*, Vol. II.

HOOVER, Daniel, from about 1705-1742.—See *Hooker Genealogy*, Vol. II.

HOWARD, Arthur W., (M. D.), settled Wethersfield, 1890.

MCLEAN, Neil, (M. D., Edinburgh, Scotland), at Hartford, 1734-37, and Wethersfield, 1773, until death in 1784.—See Stiles' *History of Windsor, Conn.*, also, *Genealogy*, Vol. II, of this work.

Neil, M. D., at Wethersfield, 1824-26—*Mrs. Mary D. McLean*.

MARSH, Jonathan, "late of Norwich," Ct., and "about 20 years experience as a surgeon"; died in Wethersfield, 3 June, 1766, aged 47 years.—See 1739—See *Marsh Genealogy*, Vol. II.

MIX, Dr. Rev. Elisha, A. M., Y. C., 1724, (only son of Rev. Stephen); died, 1 June, 1739—See *Mix Genealogy*, Vol. II.

MOSELY, Dr. Abner, 1786-1811; died, 20 Sept., 1811, aged 45.—See *Moseley Genealogy*, Vol. II.

OLCOTT, Dr. George, 1789-1801; died, 29 Mch. 1814, aged 61.

PERRIN, Thomas, m. in Wethersfield, 1740.—See *Perrin*, in Vol. II.

POISSON, Dr.

PORTER, Dr., Ezekiel, practiced in Wethersfield many years prior to his death, in 1775, at age of 69.—See *Porter Genealogy*, Vol II.

RICHARDSON, William Henry, studied medicine under Dr. Ashbel Robertson; settled for awhile in Newington, where he introduced inoculation for small-pox; (*Annals of Newington*), he may have removed to Mansfield, Ct.

ROBERTSON, Ashbel, M. D. (1815-1827), practiced first under license from Conn. Medical Soc'y Mch. 1815; graduated, Yale Medical School ; also kept store in Wethersfield 1816-1833; succeeded Dr. Barwich Bruce of whom he bought, in Nov., 1816, the present Robertson home, now occupied by his son Austin.

ROCKWELL, Dr. Alonzo, contemporary with Dr. Roberston; died about 1847.

RUSSELL, Gurdon W., (M. D.), the well known and venerable physician of Hartford, practiced for awhile in Wethersfield.

TRYON, Dr. Joseph, died 1738, aged 67.—*Glastonbury Inscription*.

WADSWORTH, Dr. Newington.

WILLARD, Dr. Newington.

WARNER, Abner, Spicer, born 18 Sept., 1818; died 22 Nov., 1900, in N. Y. State; graduated, Dartmouth College, 1842, and at Dartmouth. Medical School, 1848; came to Wethersfield, 1848; surgeon of 16th Conn. Vol. Reg., in Civil; succeeded Dr. Archibald, Welch.

WELCH, Dr. Archibald, succeeded Dr. Samuel B. Woodward, about 1832 or '33. He was killed in the Norwalk railroad disaster, 1853.

WELLS, I. N., res. in Wethersfield, 1903.

WOODWARD, Dr. Samuel B., 1817-1832; also kept store in Wethersfield; left here to enter upon the superintendency of the Mass. Insane Asylum at Worcester, where he achieved a high professional reputation.



## CHAPTER XVI.

### *Wethersfield's Share in the War of Independence, 1812—The Mexican War—War of the Civil Rebellion—Spanish-American War.*

[BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ.]

THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE, 1812-14.—Wethersfield did not largely participate in the "War of 1812," with Great Britain. In fact, the war was extremely unpopular in New England. The Governors of three Eastern States (of which Connecticut was one), at first refused to comply with the requisition made upon them, for militia, by the General Government. Among her people there was a great diversity of opinion as to the advisability, or even the necessity of a war; party spirit ran high upon the question; and the celebrated conference, held at Hartford in December, 1814, by delegates from the disaffected New England States (sitting in secret session and known in history, as the "Hartford Convention") gave to Connecticut the undeserved odium of being not only reluctant, but even traitorous in its relations to the war, and to the dignity of the United States.<sup>1</sup> It was the old story which has been repeated in every war, from that of the Revolution, down to the Spanish-American war.

The fact remains, however, that Connecticut did not enter into the war with any very great degree of interest; and, not until the British blockade of her coast in December, 1813, brought home the dangers of war to her own doors, did the local militia show any activity, or volunteering become brisk.

Wethersfield, being, from her location, in but slight peril from war-like operations—her sons, who entered the service, mostly found themselves employed in the defensive operations about New London and other sea-coast towns.

The Legislature, at its October session, 1812, authorized the raising of two regiments of infantry of ten companies each; a company, including officers and musicians, to contain 112 men. Four companies of artillery were authorized at the same time, and four "troops of

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<sup>1</sup> The reader who wishes to obtain an intelligent view of the political situation in Connecticut, and in New England generally, at this period of our national life, as well as of the true nature of the Hartford Convention, will do well to consult the 2d volume of *S. C. Goodrich's* (Peter Parley) *Recollections*.

horse." Each artillery company was to contain 58 men, all told; and each troop of horse 45, all told. At its October session, 1814, one thousand officers and men were added to those already raised.—*H. R. S.*]

In addition, there were "detached" companies and regiments "of the United States;" made up of companies drawn from the militia; of which there were, in 1814, 35 regiments. In Capt. Jared Strickland's company of the "First Detached Regiment of the U. S.," commanded by Col. Ezra Brainerd, were many Wethersfield men. Herewith is a list of such as the writer is able to identify: George Crane, Joshua Goodrich, Robert Welles, Jr., *Sergeants*; Hiram Fox(?), Epaphras Andrews, *Corporals*; William Holmes, *fifer*; John Pran, *Drummer*; Samuel Ames, George Adams, William Blinn, Hezekiah Butler, Joseph Blinn, Elias Blinn, Russell Butler, Thomas Coleman, Joseph Chapman, John Coleman, Asa Church, Sam. Coleman 2d, David Dickinson, Charles Francis(?), William Flint, Jasper Goodrich, Levi Holmes, Jr., Charles Hurlburt, Tho. M. Luce, Joseph Mitchell, Davis Morris(?), Warren Rose, Asa Sawyer, James Smith, Jr., Amos Sanford, James Treat, Elijah Tryon, David Tryon, Jesse Vibbert, Elisha R. Welles, Humphrey Woodhouse, Joseph Wright, Lewis Williams, Asa Wickham. Henry Baker, Jr., enl. 13 Nov., 1813, in Capt. Northup's Co., 37th Inf., U. S. A.; re-enl. 5 June, 1814; d. 18 Jan., 1815, in Capt. Elijah Boardman's Co., U. S. A.—*Conn. in Rev.*

Some of these were taken prisoners by the British, from privateers. Two such Wethersfield men died in the noted prison at Dartmoor, England. They were: Simeon Clark, Jan. 24th, 1813, from the *Snapdragon*; and James Williams, Jan. 14th, 1815, from the *Caroline*.

Further enquiry might possibly show that several of the remaining names upon this list, from which these are taken, were also those of Wethersfield men.

From Notes of Dr. R. W. Griswold, deceased, we gather the following names of *Stepney* parish men who served in this war:

Joshua Goodrich,	Russell Butler,	Levi Holmes, Jr.
Joseph Blinn,	Jasper Goodrich,	

HORACE (son Fred, Jr.) ROBBINS was in service under Gen. Jackson, at New Orleans; but, being on detail duty elsewhere, did not participate in the famous battle at that place.

THE MEXICAN WAR, like that of 1812, was of political origin, and not of a nature to enlist the enthusiasm of any but that class who are

always ready for a fight or an adventure. Among the few who served from Connecticut, not more than one company in all, we have not recognized any Wethersfield men.

THE WAR OF THE CIVIL REBELLION.—In this war, Wethersfield contributed more than her quota of soldiers for the maintenance of the Union; and of her means also abundantly. In order, however, to ascertain the number of those who were sons of Wethersfield, there should be *added* to the list the names of those who, having removed, were credited to other towns, within and without this state; and there should be *deducted* the names of those who were natives of other places. [The list of Wethersfield soldiers found in Judge Adams' MSS. was probably compiled from the State's Official Catalogue of Connecticut Volunteers, derived from the original Company Rolls, or "rosters," in the Adjutant-General's Office, and which contained a number of errors. We have, therefore, submitted it for careful re-vision to Mr. THOS. N. HANMER, of Wethersfield, himself a soldier of the Civil War, and whose intimate acquaintance with the Wethersfield volunteers engaged in that war, has secured for it a more satisfactory degree of accuracy. Mr. Hanmer's summary is as follows:

Total number credited to Wethersfield as volunteers in the Union Army and Navy, in the War of the Civil Rebellion, 193; total number credited as substitutes and unassigned, 35; number accredited to other towns, 6; whole number, 234.

*Casualties*, as follows: Killed in action, 6; died of wounds and disease, 17; died in prison, 5; total deaths, 28.

Wounded, 19; captured, 19; discharged for disabilities, 19; deserted, 43;<sup>1</sup> shot for desertion, 1.—*H. R. S.*]

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<sup>1</sup> In regard to the word "deserted," so damnatory to a soldiers reputation, if found on the official record of his services, it must not be always taken in its worst sense. Many soldiers, after the surrender of Gens. Lee and Johnston, concluded that the war was over, and becoming tired of waiting for their discharge, discharged themselves by returning to their homes. Consequently when they were found absent at company roll-call, and their whereabouts unknown, they were *officially* considered as having deserted. The same thing has happened in every one of our wars, from the colonial times, and the Revolutionary war, down to the present. All those who thus prematurely left for home were not really, at heart, "deserters"; their record should have been, and many have been, corrected upon proper representation to the War Department, and by Act of Congress removing the stigma of desertion when it occurred after May 11th, 1865. In going over our list, therefore, this term of "deserted," may be taken with some latitude.

*A List of Soldiers (Volunteers) in the War of the Civil Rebellion,  
Credited to Wethersfield—From the Report of the Adjutant-  
General of the State.*

- Augustus F. Adams, Nov. 25, 1861; Co. G., 10th Reg.; Corp'l; wounded at Kinston, N. C.; re-enlisted.
- Ebenezer Adams, Aug. 25, 1862; Co. B, 22d Reg.
- Edward P. Adams, Sept. 27, 1862; Co. I, 27th Reg.
- George W. Adams, Aug. 21, 1862; Co. B, 22d Reg.; Sgt.
- Sherman W. Adams, Acting Ass't., P. M., gunboat *Sumerset*; enl. 10 Nov. 1862; resig. 11 Oct., 1864.
- Stoddard Adams, Aug. 25, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.
- William Archy, Dec. 11, 1863; Co. C, 29th Reg.; Colored Reg.
- Edward Aldrich, Nov. 4, 1864; Co. H, 7th Reg.
- George Baker, Aug. 26, 1864; Co. B, 1st Heavy Art.; deserted.
- Samuel Baker, Nov. 17, 1864; 1st Light Battery.
- Charles Barnes, Dec. 2, 1863; Co. C, 29th Reg., Colored Reg.
- James Barton, Nov. 21, 1864; Co. A, 8th Reg.; deserted.
- Sidney Bassey, Dec. 22, 1863; Co. F, 29th Reg. Colored.
- Sam. H. Belden, Apr. 19, 1861; Co. B, 1st Reg.; re-enlisted, Co. A, 16th Reg.; corp'l; died, Oct. 4, 1864, at Charleston, S. C.
- James Behan, Aug. 30, 1864, Co. C, 1st Heavy Art.
- Daniel K. Bennett, Aug. 29, 1862; Co. B, 22d Reg.
- Levi Benson, Sept. 9, 1862; Co. B, 25th Reg.
- Dennis Berrigan, Nov. 19, 1864; Co. D, 1st Heavy Art.; deserted.
- Austin Bishop, Dec. 27, 1861; Co. A, 12th Reg.; re-enlisted.
- Chas. L. Blake, Dec. 1, 1863; 1st Conn. Cav.; deserted.
- Chester Blake, Dec. 1, 1863; 1st Conn. Cav.; deserted.
- Edgar F. Blinn, May 23, 1861, Co. K, 1st Heavy Art.; Must. out, Sept. 25, 1865; entered Reg. Army.
- Unni P. Blinn, Aug. 27, 1862; Co. E, 22d Reg.
- Henry Bluff, Nov. 5, 1864; Co. H, 7th Reg.; deserted.
- Louis Boner, Aug. 26, 1863; Co. K, 20th Reg.; deserted.
- John P. Bowen, May 22, 1861; Co. G, 1st Heavy Art.; died Sept. 13, 1861, Darnstown, Md.
- Fernando Bradley, July 31, 1862; Co. A, 16th Reg.
- Patrick Brady, Aug. 30, 1864; Co. C, 1st Heavy Art.
- Thomas Brannon, Apr. 7, 1864; Co. B, 12th Reg.
- George Briggs, Feb. 12, 1864; Co. I, 7th Reg.; wounded, 29 Sept., 1864, at Chapin's Farms, Va.
- George Buckley, Aug. 25, 1862; Co. E, 22d Reg.
- Tho. F. Bunce, Sept. 9, 1862; Co. B, 25th Reg.
- James Burns, Nov. 10, 1862; Co. B, 25th Reg.; deserted.
- Daniel Burke, Jan. 4, 1864; Co. F, 21st Reg.; transf. to 10th Reg.
- Henry W. Cady, Aug. 30, 1864; Co. C, 1st Heavy Art.; died, Feb. 27, 1865, at Fort Brady, Va.
- Daniel Callahan, Aug. 23, 1862; Co. A, 25th Reg.; Sgt.
- Geo. Campbell, Sept. 2, 1863; Co. F, 5th Reg.; died of wounds, Chattanooga, July 28, 1864.
- Robert Campbell, Feb. 13, 1864; Co. F, 7th Reg.; died, Andersonville, Aug. 31, 1864.
- James W. Carter, Feb. 5, 1862; Co. A, 13th Reg.; re-enl., Dec. 23, 1863; Co. H, 1st Heavy Art.; discharged, 7 Aug., 1865.



- John Cavanaugh, Aug. 28, 1863; Co. H, 5th Reg.
- John B. Clapp, July 20, 1862; 16th Reg.; Adjutant (Serj. Co. A).
- Henry G. Clark, Oct. 4, 1864; Co. E, 18th Reg.
- John Clarkson, Nov. 21, 1864; Co. D, 8th Reg.; deserted.
- Philip Clancy, May 31, 1862; Co. I, 14th Reg.; deserted.
- John Clifford, Nov. 18, 1864; Co. D, 8th Reg.; deserted.
- Charles Clontier, Mch. 28, 1864; Co. A, 11th Reg.; deserted.
- James Cogan, Aug. 26, 1864; Co. F, 7th Reg.; deserted.
- George Colvin, Sept. 7, 1861; Co. B, 7th Reg.; died at Hilton Head, Sept. 19, 1862.
- James Conray, Aug. 29, 1864; 7th Reg.; not taken up on Rolls.
- Thomas L. Crittenden, 18 July, 1862; Co. I, 14th Reg.; wd. 3 July, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pa., and 12 May, at Spotsylvania, Va.; credited to Hartford.
- Ralph Cowles, 16 July, 1862, Co. F, 14th Reg.; Sgt.; cred. to New Britain.
- Patrick Crowe, July, 21, 1864; Co. D, 8th Reg.
- Henry F. Cummings, Jan. 4, 1864; Co. K, 2d Heavy Art.; deserted.
- Charles Dailey, May 11, 1861; Rifle Co. A, 3d Reg.
- John Damery, Aug., 18th, 1862; Co. A, 16th Reg.; died July 20th, 1864, at Charleston, S. C.
- Eugene Davis, Jan. 18, 1865; Co. C, 20th Reg.; transf. to 5th Reg.
- Henry W. Davis, Nov. 25, 1861; Co. K, 11th Reg.; killed at Sharpsburg, Va., Sept. 17, 1862.
- Wm. B. DeBlois, Dec. 27, 1861; Co. B, 12th Reg.; enl. 20 Nov., 1861; mustered in as musician; prom. corp'l, 1 Nov., 1863; re-enl. vet. 1 Jan., 1864; disch. 24 July, 1865; also served in 1st R. I. Reg.
- Michael Delancy, Aug. 1862, Co. B. 22d Reg.
- David W. Deming, 13 Aug., 1862; Co. C, 16th Reg.; wd. 24 Apl., 1863, at Suffolk, Va.; d. 28 Oct., 1864, at Andersonville, Ga.
- Francis Deming, May 11, 1861; Co; A, 3d Reg.; Mch. 15, 1862; Co. A, 13th Reg.; Corp'l; wd. 19 Sept., 1864, at Winchester, Va.; dischd. 24 July, 1865.
- Geo. S. Deming, Aug. 30, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.
- Henry H. Deming, Aug. 23, 1862; Co. A., 25th Reg.
- Richard Deming, Dec. 14, 1863; Co. A., 29th Reg.; colored Reg.
- Geo. T. Dickson, Nov. 20, 1861; Co. C, 12th Reg.; Corp'l; wd. 19 Oct., 1864, at Cedar Creek, Va.
- Edgar T. Dix, Aug. 28, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.
- James Donnelly, Nov. 19, 1861; Co. C., 14th Reg.; deserted.
- Newell Dow. Aug. 30, 1862; Co. D., 22d Reg.; re-enl. 30 Aug., 1862; Co. D, 23d Reg.; corp'l.
- Henry G. Dow, Aug. 25, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.
- Geo. N. Downes, Aug. 29, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.
- Newell Dow, Dec. 13, 1861; Co. A., 13th Reg.
- Gilbert Snowdon Dwight, Co. K, 4th Ohio Reg.; d. 14 July, 1862, at Lewisville, Ky.
- Larrey Finnern, Nov. 11, 1864; Co. E., 6th Reg.
- Charles Francis, Jun., Aug. , 1862; Co. B, 22d Reg.; died May 11th, 1863; Suffolk, Va.
- Daniel W. Francis, Aug., , 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.
- Edgar L. Francis, Aug. 29, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.
- Ira E. Forbes, July 28, 1862; Co. A., 16th Reg.; Cap't.
- Charles S. Gains, Aug. 27, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.
- Geo. E. Galligher, 26 Aug., 1863; Co. A., 16th Reg., U. S. A., killed, 1 June, 1864, at Cold Harbor.
- Wm. A. Garvie, Nov. 20, 1861; Co. A., 12th Reg.; Sgt.
- Azariah Gladden Jan. 5, 1864; Co. A. 1st Heavy Art.; deserted.

James H. Gladding, Nov. 2, 1862; 1st Light Battery.

Lafayette Gladding, Aug. 30, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.

John Goldrick, 20 June, 1863; seaman, U. S. st. strs. *Catskill* and *Augusta Dinsmore*.

Frederick Goobell, Sept. 7, 1863; Co. D., 14 Reg.; deserted.

Henry Gordon, Feb. 13, 1864; 7th Reg.; deserted.

Thomas Gorman, Aug. 30, 1862; Co. A., 25th Reg.

John D. Griswold, Aug. 21, 1862; Co. E., 22d Reg.

William Green, Nov. 11, 1864; 7th Reg.; not taken up on rolls.

Wait R. Griswold, Mch. 21, 1863; 22d Reg.; 2d Asst. Surg.; credited to Durham; 86 Reg., U. S.; Colored troops.

Nathan Hale, Aug. 7, 1862; Co. A., 16th Reg.; died Oct. 12th, 1862, at Baltimore.

Michael Halliman, Nov. 25, 1861; Co. G., 9th Reg.

Wm. F. Hammond, Apl. 9th, 1864; Co. M., 1st Reg. Cav.

Thos. N. Hanmer, Aug. 25, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.

Edward Harker, Aug. 24, 1862; Co. E., 22d Reg.

Edward Harlow, Dec. 22, 1861; Co. A., 13 Reg.; Dec. 23, 1863; Co. H., 1st Heavy Art.

Charles Harris, Feb. 13, 1864; 2d Heavy Art.; not taken up on rolls.

Henry H. Harris, Nov. 14, 1861; Co. H., 11th Reg.; wounded; Sgt.; wd. 18 June, 1864, at Petersburg, Va.

Almon J. Hart, Aug. 18, 1862; Co. B., 21st Reg.

Lorin J. Hastings, Aug. , 1862; Co. B, 22d Reg.

Andrew Hayworth, Nov. 11, 1864; Co. H., 7th Reg.

Hugh Heath, Aug. 30, 1862; Co. A., 25th Reg.

Ralph H. Hills, Dec. 12th, 1861; Co. F., 12th Reg.; musician, re-enlisted; wounded.

Martin Hogan, Dec. 22, 1861; Co. E., 13th Reg.

John M. Holden, Dec. 19, 1861; Co. B., 12th Reg.; Corp'l; d. 20 Sept., 1863.

John Hollister, Oct. 22, 1861; Co. C., 10th Reg.; re-enlisted.

John Holt, Sept. 11, 1862; Co. A., 25th Reg.

John Howard, Feb. 12th, 1864; Co. I., 7th Reg.; wd. 29 Sept., 1864, at Chapin's Farms, Va.

Gideon M. Hubbard, Oct. 1, 1861; Co. E., 10th Reg.

William Hubbard, Sept. 7, 1861; Co. B., 7th Reg.; died at Hilton Head, Oct. 8, 1862.

James Hunt, Nov. 12, 1862; Co. B., 25th Reg.; deserted.

Wm. E. Joy, Feb. 12, 1864; Co. M., 2d Heavy Art.; deserted.

Fred R. Jenks, Sept. 30, 1861; Co. E., 10th Reg.

George Jenks, Nov. 10, 1862; Co. B., 25th Reg.; deserted.

Ira Jennings, Dec. 29, 1863; Co. L., 1st Heavy Art.; deserted; artificer.

Robt. W. Joiner, Aug. 15, 1862; Co. G., 20th Reg.

Charles Jones, Aug. 27, 1863; Co. G., 5th Reg.; deserted.

Henry Jones, Nov. 19, 1864; 14th Reg.; deserted.

William Johnson, Jan. 4, 1864; Co. A., 2d Heavy Art.

Edward P. Joyner, Sept. 1, 1862; Co. D., 22d Reg.

Francis Kearney, Nov. 11, 1864; Co. G., 7th Reg., Corp'l.

Michael Kelley, Sept. 3, 1863; Co. C., 8th Reg.; captured May 16, 1864.

Horace R. Kellogg, Aug. , 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.; re-enl. Jan. 5, 1864; Co. I., 1st Heavy Art.; died July 26th, 1864, at Regt. Hospital.

Robert H. Kellogg, Aug. 11, 1862; Co. A., 16 Reg.; sergeant; prom. sgt. major.

Charles Kennedy, Dec. 22, 1864; Co. I, 1st Heavy Art.; deserted.

Thos. H. Kennedy, Apl. 22, 1861; Rifle Co. A., 1st Regt.; musician.

John L. Kergresser, Sept. 3, 1863; Co. A., 8th Reg.; wd. May, 1864; deserted.

Michael Kerrigan, Nov. 18, 1864; Co. H., 10th Reg.; deserted.

- Franklin Kilby, Aug. 14, 1862; Co. B., 21st Reg.  
 Franklin E. Kilby, Sept. 5, 1862, Co. A., 25th Reg.  
 Wyllys Kilby, Aug. 21, 1862; Co. A., 25th Reg.  
 Dwight Kneeland, Aug. 23, 1862; Co. A., 16th Reg.; trans. to Signal Corps; Sgt.  
 James D. Lamphere, Oct. 21, 1862; Co. H., 7th Reg.; Corp'l; wd. 16 Aug., 1864, at Deep Run, Va.  
 Thomas Lantry, Dec. 23, 1863; Co. H., 1st Heavy Art.  
 John McLaughlin, enl. fm. Suffield, Feb. 16, 1864; Co. B., 7th Reg.; trans., 28 Apl., 1864, to U. S. Navy; served in U. S. strs. *Minnesota* and *Malverne*.  
 George Lewis, Feb. 20, 1864; 8th Reg.; enl. fm. Mannsfield, Ct.  
 Henry B. Lewis, Nov. 19, 1864; Co. F., 1st Heavy Art.  
 John Lightfoot, Feb. 9, 1864; Co. C., 3rd Reg.; colored; Co. D., 31st Conn. U. S. col. troops.  
 Henry Lindon, Feb. 22, 1862; Co. E., 22d Reg.  
 Frederick Linemyer, Sept. 4, 1863; Co. F., 8th Reg.; deserted.  
 Thomas Loftus, Apl. 7, 1864; Co. H., 12th Reg.; deserted.  
 William Long, Feb. 20, 1864; Co. B., 8th Reg.; killed, Cold Harbor, June 2, 1864.  
 Amenzo R. Lyon, Aug. 27, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.  
 John M. Lyon, Jan. 4, 1864; Co. K., 1st Reg. Cav.; Sgt.  
 James M. Madison, Dec. 15, 1863; Co. C., 29th Reg.; Col. Reg.  
 Wm. A. Magill, Aug. 28, 1862; 25th Reg.; hospital steward.  
 James Maloy, Nov. 18, 1864; Co. H., 10th Reg.; deserted.  
 Frederick Maroney, Apl. 7, 1864; Co. H., 12th Reg.; deserted; wounded at Winchester, Va., 19 Sept., 1864.  
 John Martin, Aug. 25, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.  
 Patrick McAlloon, Sept. 27, 1861; Co. G., 9th Reg.; died Aug. 14, 1862, at New Orleans.  
 John McCannon, Feb. 15, 1864; 7th Reg.; deserted.  
 James McNamara, Jan. 11, 1864; Co. K., 1st Heavy Art.  
 Abram Merchant, Dec. 10, 1863; Co. C., 29th Reg.; deserted.  
 Gaylord Morgan, Aug. 30, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.  
 Guy S. Morgan, May 11, 1861; Rifle Co. A., 3rd Reg.; re-enlisted in Co. A., 8th Reg.  
 Stephen Morgan, Jun., Aug. 25, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.  
 John M. Morris, 26 Apl., 1862, chaplain 8th Reg.; resign. 29 Sept., 1863; cred. to New Haven.  
 Charles Morton, Nov. 19, 1864; Co. F., 10th Reg.; deserted.  
 Wm. W. Morton, July 15, 1862; Co. B., 21st Reg., Corp'l wd. at Cold Harbor, Va., 3 June, 1864.  
 James Moor, Sept. 9, 1863; Co. J., 8th Reg.; deserted.  
 Joseph Murphy, Jan. 4, 1864; Co. F., 21st Reg.; trans. to 10th Reg.  
 Thomas Murphy, Nov. 19, 1864; Co. D., 1st Heavy Art.; deserted.  
 Joshua Oliver, Dec. 15, 1863; Co. C., 29th Reg.; colored; d. 5 Oct., 1865.  
 John L. Osgood, Aug. 30, 1862; Co. D., 22d Reg.  
 Wm. H. Palmer, Apl. 1, 1864; Co. G., 1st Reg. Cav.  
 John Phelan, Mch. 17, 1864; Co. A., 8th Reg.; killed at Cold Harbor June 9th, 1863.  
 John H. Phelps, 23 Sept., 1861, 1st Sgt. Co. B., 21 Batt., 14 Reg., U. S. A.; wounded.  
 William Power, Aug. 28, 1863; Co. I, 5th Reg.; deserted.  
 Wm. H. Price, Mch. 24, 1864; 11th Reg.; deserted, fm. Hartford.  
 Wm. E. Quigley, Sept. 9, 1862; Co. E., 22d Reg.  
 Alfred H. Recor, Dec. 31, 1863; Co. H., 1st Heavy Art.  
 James Reed, Nov. 19, 1864; 14th Reg.; deserted.  
 Patrick Reynolds, Jan. 22, 1862; Co. A., 13th Reg.; deserted.  
 Chas. W. Rhodes, May 11, 1861; Rifle Co. A., 3rd Reg.

- Henry W. Rhodes, Aug. 16, 1862; Co. A., 16th Reg.; Corporal; deserted.  
 Frederick Richards, Nov. 1, 1861; Co. E., 10th Reg.; Sgt.  
 Samuel Richards, Feb. 15, 1864; Co. C., 7th Reg.  
 James Rogers, June 17, 1862; Co. E., 14th Reg.; died at Salisbury, N. C., Feb. 28, 1865.  
 John Riley, Feb. 16, 1864; Co. B., 7th Reg.; captured June 2d, 1864.  
 Henry Rising, Nov. 12, 1861; Co. C., 11th Reg.; killed at Sharpsburg, Sept. 17, 1862.  
 Caleb B. Root, Aug. 12, 1862; Co. F., 7th Reg.; died Mch. 13, 1864.  
 John E. Root, Aug. 27, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.  
 John Ryan, Sept. 9, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.  
 Joseph Ryan, Nov. 19, 1864; Co. H., 10th Reg.  
 Wm. H. Sherman, Oct. 18, 1864; Co. F., 7th Reg.  
 David Simpson, Sept. 5, 1863; Co. K., 8th Reg.; trans. to U. S. Navy.  
 Sylvester Skinner, Sept. 11, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.  
 James Smith, Dec. 4, 1863; Co. H., 29th Reg.; colored; mustered out 24 Oct., 1865.  
 James Smith, Aug. 26, 1864, Co. F., 7th Reg.  
 James A. Smith, Aug. 30, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.  
 John Smith, Sept. 5, 1863; Co. K., 8th Reg.; deserted; w'd 3 June, 1864, at Cold Harbor, Va.  
 John H. Smith, Feb. 12, 1864; Co. I., 7th Reg.  
 Joseph Smith, Feb. 12, 1864; Co. B., 7th Reg.  
 Peter Smith, Sept. 8, 1863; Co. E., 14th Reg.; wounded.  
 Joel Snyder, Sept. 28, 1864; Co. A., 8th Reg.  
 Francis Southergill, Jan. 5, 1864; Co. K., 2d Heavy Art.; mustered out 6 Sept., 1865; w'd I June, 1864, at Cold Harbor, Va.  
 John Staub, Sept. 8, 1863; Co. K., 14th Reg.; died Dec. 21, 1864; camp parole.  
 Abel Steele, 24 Jan., 1862, Co. I., 12th Reg.; cred. to Berlin.  
 Austin N. Steele, Aug. 7, 1862; Co. F., 14th Reg.  
 Edward Steele, June 1, 1863; Co. G., 1st Heavy Art.  
 John W. Steele, Nov. 21, 1864; Co. H., 14th Reg.; Co. C., 2d Heavy Art.; and transf. 12th Reg.  
 Oliver L. Steele, Aug. 25, 1862; Co. A., 25th Reg.  
 Samuel Steele, Dec. 11, 1861; Co. K., 11th Reg.  
 Sylvester W. Steele, July 18, 1862; Co. F., 14th Reg.; killed Dec. 13, 1862, Fredericksburg.  
 Hudson H. Stoddard, July 22, 1861; Co. G., 5th Reg.  
 John Tyler, Nov. 21, 1864; Co. F., 11th Reg.; deserted.  
 Allen Thrasher, Nov. 14, 1861; Co. H., 11th Reg.; re-enlisted.  
 Michael Tracy, July 25, 1862; Co. C., 16th Reg.  
 Williams Travers, Feb. 8, 1864; Co. L. 2nd Heavy Art.  
 Isaac B. Truitt, Jan. 11, 1864; Co. B., 30th Reg.; colored; Sg't.  
 F. Dixon Tucker, July 21, 1862; Co. A., 16th Reg.; deserted.  
 Louis O. Vischer, Feb. 15, 1864; Co. B., 7th Reg.; deserted.  
 Horace Wadsworth, Sept. 7, 1861; Co. B., 7th Reg.  
 Lucius Wadsworth, 16 July, 1862, Co. F., 14 Reg.; d. 13 Sept., 1862, at Baltimore; cred. to New Britain.  
 Francis Wales, Sept. 1, 1863; Co. D., 8th Reg.; shot for desertion.  
 Abner S. Warner, July 28, 1862; 16th Reg.; surgeon; resign. 7 Jan., 1863.  
 Henry W. Webb, Sept. 8, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.  
 Charles B. Wells, Aug. 19, 1862; Co. H., 14th Reg.; deserted.  
 Henry C. Welles, Nov. 26, 1861; Co. C., 1st Reg. Cav.  
 Edward D. Welles, Sept. 7, 1861; Co. B., 7th Reg.; Qr. Mstr. sgt.



Chas. H. Whaples, March 5, 1862; Co. L., 1st Heavy Art.; sgt.  
 George H. Whaples, Dec. 13, 1861; Co. K., 11th Reg.  
 Henry N. Whaples, Aug. 15, 1862; Co. K., 20th Reg.  
 Joseph Whaples, Aug. 30, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.  
 Henry A. White, Aug. 11, 1862; Co. C., 16th Reg.  
 Alex H. Wilson, Jan. 5, 1864; Co. F., 1st Heavy Art.; corp'l.  
 Wellman B. Wiers, Aug. 30, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.  
 Charles L. Willard, July 27, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.; sgt.  
 Eugene B. Willard, Aug. 28, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.; died 21 Apl., 1863, at Arlington, Va.  
 Chas. W. Williams, Nov. 13, 1862; Co. C. 5th Reg.; deserted.  
 Michael Williams, Nov. 19, 1864; Co. I., 8th Reg.; deserted.  
 Walter Wilson, Feb. 11, 1864; Co. I., 11th Reg.  
 Conrad Witt, Sept. 8, 1863; Co. D., 14th Reg.; w'd 27 Nov., 1863, at Mine Run, Va.  
 Anthony Wright, Aug. 30; 1862; Co. B., 22 Reg.  
 Edward G. Woodhouse, Aug. 25, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.; second Lieutenant.  
 Herbert H. Woodhouse, Aug. 25, 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.

*Volunteers in Civil War, from ROCKY HILL.—From the report of the Adjutant-General of the State; and from Notes by Dr. R. W. Griswold. Italicized matter in the following list are from the latter source.*

In the War of the Rebellion, Rocky Hill, as it appears from the rolls of the Adjutant-General's office, contributed 110 soldiers to the union army. Of these six were Blacks. The number reported to have died in the service was twelve. We have no *data* for determining how many of those credited to Rocky Hill were natives of other places; nor, on the other hand, how many of her sons are credited on the quotas of other towns or places.

Charles Arnold, (s. Talcott A.)  
 James Armstrong, Nov. 23, 1864; Co. C., 10th Reg.; deserted.  
 Elizur D. Belden (s. *Chester*) Aug. 11, 1862; Co. C., 16th Reg.; died Nov. 1864; Florence, S. C.; *bu. Ry-Hill.*  
 Geo. E. Belden, Sept. 8, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.; *deserted 28 Nov.*  
 George F. Belden, (son of Asa) Sept. 9, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.; *disch. 24 July, 1862; enl. Head Qr. Troops; d. 15 June, 1887, at Ry-H.*  
 John S. Blinn, Co. B., 2d Reg.; died 16th Apl. 1863, ae. 53.  
 Wadsworth T. Blynn, (s. *John*), *enl. from Midd. in Rifle Co. D., 7 May; d. 25 Aug., 1861, ae. 29; bu. Ry-Hill.*  
 Lemuel H. Boardman, (son of Jason), May 7, 1861; Rifle Co. D., 2d Reg.; *disch. 7 Aug., 1861.*  
 Andrew J. Boardman, (s. *Jason*), *d. 9 Oct., 1867, ae. 32.*  
 James Boardman, (s. *Jason*), May 23, 1861; Co. E., 1st Heavy Art.; *disch. 22 May, 1864.*  
 Frederick Boardman, (s. *Jason*), Sept. 25, 1861; Co. E., 8th Reg.; *re-enlisted as Vet., 24 Dec., 1863.*  
 William Brown, Nov. 23, 1864; Co. H., 10th Reg.; *deserted.*  
 Fred R. Butler, Sept. 8, 1862; Co. G., 24th Reg.; *disch. 30 Sept., 1863.*  
 Nathan Camp, Jany. 2, 1864; Co. C., 29th Reg.; colored Reg.  
 Samuel Collins, *bu. Ry-Hill.*

- Martin V. Culver, Aug. 18, 1862; Co. A., 16th Reg.
- Lorenzo D. Culver, (s. *David*), Co. H., 11th Conn. Reg.; d. 1 *Apl.*, 1866, *ae.* 21.
- Otis Culver, Dec. 16, 1863; Co. K., 10th Reg.; died 7 *May*, 1866, *ae.* 26; *bu. Ry-H.*
- Fred D. Culver, (s. *David*), Co. H., 11th Conn.; d. 6 *Oct.*, 1862, *ae.* 27; *bu. Ry-H.*
- Charles L. Deming, (s. *Linus*), Sept. 25, 1861; Co. E., 8th Reg.; *re-enl. as Vet.*, 24 *Dec.*, 1863.
- John E. Deming, Aug. 11, 1862; Co. F., 16th Reg.; died *Mch.* 10, 1865, *Wilmington, N. C.*
- John H. Deming, (s. *Erastus*), May 7, 1861; Rifle Co. D, 2d Reg.; *disch.* 7 *Aug.*, 1861.
- Charles Depth, Sept. 20, 1864; 29th Reg.; Col. Reg.
- James Driscoll, Jan. 2, 1864; Co. A., 1st Heavy Art.; *deserted* 16 *Jan.* *Not of Ry-Hill.*
- Jerome Evans, Sept. 25, 1861; Co. E., 8th Reg.; *re-enl. as Vet.* 24 *Dec.*, 1863.
- William Evans, Sept. 2, 1862; Co. I., 5th Reg.; *deserted* 17 *Sept.*; *substitute; not a resident.*
- William Funin, Nov. 26, 1864; Co. K., 10th Reg.; *deserted.*
- Martin L. Gardner, Sept. 19, 1864; Co. G., 1st Heavy Art.
- Charles A. Goodrich, (s. *Sylvester*), d. 3 *Apl.*, 1868, *ae.* 28; *bu. Ry-H.*
- Burritt Goodrich, July 28, 1862; Co. B., 16th Reg.
- Rennsalaer Goodale.
- Edward Goodrich, Feb. 22, 1862; 7th Reg. *Sent South, but never reached Regiment.*
- George P. Goodrich, (s. *Jeremy*), Aug. 19, 1861; Co. B., 1st Squad Cav.; died at *Andersonville, being then of Co. D., 2d N. Y. Cav., ae.* 27.
- Jeremy Goodrich, Aug. 7, 1862; Co. C., 16th Reg.; d. Sept. 1, 1864.
- Walter S. Goodrich, May 7, 1861; Rifle Co. D., 2d Reg.; *disch.* 7 *Aug.*, 1861.
- Leonard A. Green, (s. *William B.*) Aug. 11, 1862; Co. F. 16 Reg.; died Dec. 20, 1862, *Falmouth, Va.*
- Jeremy Griswold, (s. *Jeremy*), 7 *Aug.*, 1862; *died in Andersonville prison, 1 Sept., 1864, ae.* 29.
- Sylvester Griswold, (s. *Fred*), *enl. fr. Cromwell, 5th Mil. Co. I., 3rd Sept., 1862; trans. to V. & R. Corps., 8 May, 1862.*
- Daniel C. Griswold, (s. *Albro*), Aug. 8, 1862; Co. 6, 16th Reg.; *prisoner.*
- James P. Hamilton, *Apl.* 22, 1861; Rifle Co. A., 1st Reg.; *disch.* 31 *July*, 1861.
- Albert S. Hatch, Aug. 7, 1862; Co. A., 16th Reg.; *wounded; died 2 May, 1863, ae.* 30.
- William Holden, (s. *Eber*), May 7, 1861; Rifle Co. D., 2d Reg.; *disch.* 7 *Aug.*; *re-enl.* Sept. 8, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.; *deserted.*
- Henry C. Holmes, Sept. 9, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.; *disch.* 26 *Aug.*, 1863.
- Daniel R. Hopkins, Aug. 5, 1862; Co. A., 16th Reg.; *disch. disability, 31 Jan., 1863.*
- Amos L. Hotchkiss, 22 *Apl.*, 1861; Co. D., 1st Conn. Reg.; *cred. to Waterbury, Ct.; disch.* 31 *July*, 1861.
- Henry Hotchkiss, Sept. 7, 1862; Co. D., 25th Reg.; drummer; *disch.* 26 *Aug.*, 1863.
- Thomas Hunter, Dec. 6, 1864; Co. F., 10th Reg.
- James Johnson, Jan. 5, 1864; 5th Reg.; *deserted; substitute; not a resident.*
- James Kelley, Jan. 5, 1864; 5th Reg.; not taken up on rolls.
- Horace R. Kelley (s. *Franklin*), *enl. from Weth., 25 Aug., 1862; Co. B., 22d Reg.; disch.* 7 *July*, 1863; *re-enlisted* 5 *Jan.*, 1864, *Co. I., 1st Reg. Heavy Art.*
- Norman Kellogg (s. *Franklin*) Jan. 22, 1862; Co. F., 13th Reg.
- Otis F. Kellogg, (s. *Franklin*), Aug. 25, 1863; Co. B., 22d Reg.; *disch.* 7 *July*, 1863.
- Wm. M. Kellogg, May 16, 1864; Co. I., 1st Heavy Art.
- Wm. W. Kellogg, Sept. 9, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.
- Henry Ladue, Nov. 28, 1864; 1st Light Battery; *trans. to 11th Reg.*
- Franklin H. Lee, Jan. 2, 1864; Co. A., 1st Heavy Art.

- Donald LeVaughn, (s. *William*), Sept. 25, 1861; Co. E., 8th Reg.; wounded *in arm*.  
 Roland LeVaughn, (s. *William*), Aug. 7, 1862; Co. C., 16 Reg.; died Sept. 25th, 1864.  
 Wm. O. LeVaughn, 22 Apl., 1861; Co. F., Inf.; disch. 31 July, 1861; cred. to Meriden, Charleston.  
 Wm. O. LeVaughn, (s. *William*), 22 Apl., 1861; Co. F.; Inf.; *disch.* 31 July, 1861; *cred. to Meriden; re-enl.* Aug. 7, 1862; Co. C., 16th Reg.; died Sept. 5th, 1864; Andersonville.  
 Lewis C. Lockwood, Dec. 23, 1863; Co. G., 1st Heavy Art.  
 Wm. H. Lockwood, Dec. 23, 1863; Co. G., 1st Heavy Art.  
 Eugene E. Lovejoy (s. *Frank*) Nov. 20, 1863; Co. B., 1st Reg. Cav.  
 John Lynch, Sept. 7, 1863; Co. I., 14th Reg.; *deserted; non-resident; substitute*.  
 Patrick McCarty, Dec. 6, 1864; Co. G., 6th Reg.  
 John Martin.  
 John Masterson, Sept. 21, 1864; Co. C., 15th Reg.; missing Mch. 8, 1865.  
 Thos. J. Montgomery, July 22, 1861; Co. F., 5th Reg.; *re-enl.* 21 Dec., 1863.  
 James Moore, Sept. 21, 1864; Co. C., 7th Reg.; *deserted*.  
 John Neill, Nov. 25, 1864; Co. K., 10th Reg.  
 Michael Nolan, Aug. 23 (or 31), 1863; Co. M., 1st Heavy Art.; *non-resident; substitute*.  
 Hosea Omonco, Nov. 26, 1864; Co. K., 10th Reg.; *deserted*.  
 James O'Connor, Aug. 28, 1863; Co. I., 5th Reg.; *non-resident; substitute*.  
 Franklin G. Peck, July 31, 1862; Co. A., 16th Reg.  
 Wm. H. Pelton, Sept. 8, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.; *disch.* 26 Aug., 1863.  
 Edward Peters, Dec. 10, 1863; Co. C., 29 Reg.; colored Reg.; died Nov. 17, 1864, at Jones Landing.  
 Thomas G. Porter, 8 Sept., 1862; Co. H., 28th Reg.; *disch.* 26 Aug., 1863.  
 Patrick Regan, *enl.* 28 Aug., 1863.; *non-resident; substitute*.  
 John Richardson, Sept. 9, 1863; Co. G., 14th Reg.; *deserted, prob. substitute*.  
 Thos. H. Robbins, Sept. 8, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.; corporal.  
 Benj. A. Robinson, (s. *Ashbel*), *enl. from Htfd.*, 11 May; *disch.* 12 Aug., 1861; *re-enlisted as Vet.* 22 Dec., 1863; *Sept.* 7, 1861, Co. B., 7th Reg.  
 Eli Rodman, Feb. 29, 1864; Co. G., 29th Reg.; Col. Reg.  
 Patrick Ryan, Jan. 5, 1864; 5th Reg.; not taken up on rolls.  
 Ferdinand E. Sage, Sept. 9, 1862; Co. B., 25th Reg.; *disch.* 26 Aug., 1863.  
 Henry M. Sage, Aug. 13, 1862; Co. A., 16th Reg.  
 Erbin K. Sanford, Jan. 7, 1862; Co. F., 13th Reg.; *disch., disability*, 5 June, 1863.  
 John Shipmaker, (s. *Francis*), Oct. 7, 1861; Co. E., 8th Reg.; *disch., disability*, 13 Apl., 1864.  
 George M. Smith, (s. *Mason*), Aug. 9, 1862; Co. C., 16th Reg.; *disch., disability*, d. 5 Jan., 1863, *in service; bu. in Ry-Hill*.  
 John Smith, Sept. 21, 1864; Co. H., 29th Reg.; Col. Reg.  
 Peter G. Smith, Dec. 6, 1864; Co. I., 6th Reg.  
 David D. Stevens, Sept. 9, 1862; Co. B., 25th Reg.; *disch.* 26 Aug., 1863.  
 Gilbert H. Stowe, Sept. 30, 1861; Co. E., 8th Reg.; d. 13 Apl., 1862.  
 Henry D. Stevens, Aug. 11, 1862; Co. F., 16th Reg.; *re-enl.* Oct. 6, 1862; Co. B., 25th Reg.  
 Henry R. (s. *Davis R.*) *enl.* Co. F., 16th Reg., 11 Aug., 1862; *disch.*; *re-enl.* 25 Oct., 1862 in Co. B., 25th Reg.; *disch.* 26th Nov., 1863.  
 Justus R. Stevens, Sept. 9, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.; was in service, but not on Muster Roll.  
 William Stevens, Aug. 2, 1863; Co. M., 1st Heavy Art.; *deserted; substitute*.  
 William Sugden, Aug. 6, 1862; Co. A., 16th Reg.; *died in the service*.  
 Henry W. Taylor, Oct. 10, 1861; Co. E., 8th Reg.; rejected 2 Nov.

- John Thompson, Sept. 7th, 1863; Co. I., 14th Reg.; transf. to U. S. Navy.
- John L. Thompson, Aug. 10, 1863; Co. I., 14th Reg.; deserted; substitute, non-resident.
- William Thompson, 2d, Sept. 8, 1863; Co. I., 14th Reg.; transf. to U. S. navy; substitute, non-resident.
- William Thompson, 3d, Sept. 22, 1863; Co. I., 14th Reg.; transf. to U. S. navy; substitute, non-resident.
- Albert C. Tryon, (s. *Abijah*) May 7, 1861; Rifle Co. D., 2d Reg.; disch. 7 Aug., 1861.
- James Walsh, Dec. 6, 1864; Co. B., 10th Reg.
- John Ward, Dec. 17, 1864; Co. F., 10th Reg.; deserted.
- Marshall J. Warren, d. 29 Nov., 1863, *ae.* 24; *bu.* *Ry-Hill*.
- Horace M. Warner (s. *Walter*), Aug. 9, 1862; Co. C., 16th Reg.; died Oct. 24, 1864; *bu.* *Ry-Hill*.
- Marshall J. Warner, Sept. 8, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.
- Chas. H. Waterman, Aug. 9, 1862; Co. F., 16th Reg.; died at home Nov. 17, 1862; Rocky Hill; *from wd. res'd at Sharpsburg, Va.*
- John A. Waterman, Sept. 25, 1861; Co. E., 8th Reg.; rejected Nov. 2; re-enl. Aug. 18, 1863; Co. C., 14th Reg.; *non-resident, substitute.*
- Edgar W. Webb, (s. *Henry*) Feb. 1, 1862; Co. F., 13th Reg.
- Henry W. Webb, (s. *Henry*), 8 Sept., 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.; disch. 16 Aug., 1863; *cr. to Weth.*
- William Leroy Webb, (s. *Henry*), May 7, 1861; Rifle Co. D., 2d Reg.; disch. 7 Aug., *re-enl.* Jan. 2, 1862; Co. F., 13th Reg.; Vet. Feb. 8, 1864.
- Martin Whaples, Sept. 9, 1862; Co. B., 25th Reg.
- John White, enl. 7 Aug., 1862; Co. C., 16th Reg.
- William Whitmore, (s. *Sylvester*), Sept. 25, 1861; Co. E., 8th Reg.; disch. 1 Aug., 1862; d. 21 Sept., 1862; *bu.* *Ry-Hill*.
- Henry B. Whitford, (s. *Wm. H.*), Sept. 9, 1862; Co. B., 25th Reg.; *deserted* Nov. 12.
- Chas. W. Williams (Corp'l) (s. *Charles*), May 7, 1861; Rifle Co. D., 2d Reg., *disch.* 7 Aug.; *re-enl.* Feb. 1, 1862; Co. F., 13th Reg.; sergeant; *disch. for disability*, 26 Aug., 1862.
- Henry C. Williams, (s. *Moses*) Aug. 8, 1862; Co. C., 16th Reg.; promoted.
- Horace (s. *Horace*) Williams, Aug. 8, 1862; Co. C., 16th Reg.; transf. to 20th Reg., 2d Lieut.; *resigned* 11 Feb., 1873.
- Wm. C. Williams, (s. *Andrew*) Aug. , 1862; Co. L., 16th Reg.; died Oct. 14, 1864, as 2d Lt. Co. L., 21st Conn., Newbern, N. C.
- Wm. C. Williams, July 6, 1865. 20th Reg.; colored Reg.; Captain.
- Geo. W. Wright, Aug. 11, 1862; Co. F., 16th Reg.; disch., disability, 7 Feb., 1864.
- Marshall S. Wright, (s. *Justus*), Sept. 8, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.; *disch.* 25 Aug., 1863.
- Lewis F. Wright, (s. of *Justus*) Sept. 8, 1862; Co. H., 25th Reg.; disch. 26 Aug., 1863.



The WETHERSFIELD VETERAN ASSOCIATION was organized June 24, 1882, with these officers:

*President and Commander*, E. G. Woodhouse.

*Vice President*, F. T. Chapman.

*Secretary and Treasurer*, T. N. Hanmer.

The objects were (as in their constitution):

1. "To preserve and strengthen those fraternal feelings which should bind together the soldiers and sailors who united to suppress the late Rebellion.

2. "To perpetuate the memory and history of the dead by a proper observance of Memorial day, on the thirtieth day of May, annually, in decorating the graves of our fallen comrades in commemoration of their deeds."

To this organization, in time, succeeded the JOHN M. MORRIS POST, G. A. R.

*In the Spanish-American War the following persons served:*

J. Edward Rowe, machinist on the auxiliary cruiser, *St. Paul*.

Richard W. Delamater, Lieut. Co. K, 1st Conn. Regt. Vols.

Edward Smith, U. S. Cavalry Vols., in Philippine Islands.

Michael Grogan, 28th Regt., U. S. Infantry, in Philippine Islands.

Henry R. Buck, Naval Reserves, 2d Conn. Div.

James D. Wells, Naval Reserves, 2d Conn. Div.

Joseph P. Rhodes, New Mexico or Arizona Regt., at Cuba.

Hudson A. Steele, seaman on *U. S. S. Indiana*, at Santiago.

Clinton Steele, drummer in 1st Regt. Conn. Vols.

Clarence W. Steele, seaman on *U. S. S. Baltimore*, at Manilla; enlisted Aug. 3, 1894, on *U. S. S. Minnesota*, and served on the *Texas* and the *Philadelphia*; transferred to the *Baltimore*, Oct. 16, 1897; left Honolulu, H. I., Mch. 25, 1898, to join Dewey's fleet at Hong Kong, China; left Manilla, Mch. 23, 1899, in the *Buffalo* for N. Y., via the Suez Canal; discharged from the *Buffalo* and the service, May 20, 1899.

## CHAPTER XVII

### MISCELLANEA WETHERSFIELDIANA.

*Witchcraft—Leonard Chester's Adventure—A Mysterious Pot of Money—The Strange Story of Elizabeth Canning—Grave Robbing—The Beadle Murders, 1783—Slaves and Slavery in Wethersfield—Floods, Earthquakes and Conflagrations—Odd Names of Wethersfield Localities—Old-Time Fishing in the Connecticut River—Old Homes, Taverns and Furniture—The Old Elm—Wethersfield as seen by Strangers at Various Times.*

[BY SHERMAN W. ADAMS, ESQ., AND HENRY R. STILES, M. D.]

AS IN AN OLD HOUSE the *garret* is generally the "catch-all" for old or disused furniture and "belongings" which are out of date, and which comport neither with the comfort or dignity of the rest of the house—so, every Town History must have some such chapter as this, in which may be gathered the "odds and ends," the "unconsidered trifles"—stray bits of fact or tradition, the "flotsam and jetsam" of the centuries, which fit nowhere else and can be introduced nowhere else, without disturbing the easy and dignified flow of the historic narrative.

Into this chapter, then, have we brought various (and otherwise neglected) matters relating to Wethersfield's past—such as *Witchcraft, Adventures, Lawsuits, Crimes, Conflagrations, Disasters by Hurricane or Flood, Old Houses, Negro Slavery*, etc., etc., which may serve to interest the reader—the whole being not unlike the "grab-bag" at a Church Fair, into which, when one putteth his hand, he is in nowise certain what he shall bring forth.

WITCHCRAFT, or, as the old law-books term it, "Conjuration and Sorcery," from time immemorial has ever held a potent sway over the minds and imaginations of men. It is not, therefore, surprising that a belief in witchcraft prevailed to so great an extent, in New England, even so late as within the last two centuries; especially when we reflect that so learned a jurist as Sir William Blackstone, and so intelligent a writer as Mr. Addison, in the *Spectator*, recognized it not only as a possible, but as a punishable offense. And it may be also remarked, that the death penalty provided for it by the General Court of Con-

necticut, in 1642, was in conformity with the Mosaic Code<sup>1</sup> and directly borrowed from the English Common Law, of that period.

It should be understood, however that while two persons at least were executed in Connecticut for witchcraft, and that there are some others concerning whom doubt exists among historians as to whether they were thus executed or not—it is yet certain that the *Connecticut* Colony was not swept by the whirlwind of superstition which disturbed the Massachusetts Colony—although there were those here who held to it.

Whether a greater "leaven of unrighteousness" worked in the hearts and consciences of Wethersfield people, than in those of the dwellers in the other river towns of the Colony, we wot not. It may be, indeed, that the religious dissensions and disturbances which signalized Wethersfield's earlier years, did engender in the community a mental condition which predisposed them more readily to "entertain familiarity with Sathan, the Great Enemy of Mankind," than otherwise they would have done. But, certain it is, as appeareth of record, that Wethersfield enjoys the unenviable distinction of having furnished a majority of the *proven*(?) cases of witchcraft occurring in Connecticut—*i. e.*, excluding the well known New Haven cases.

The first of these Wethersfield cases was that of MARGARET JOHNSON, against whom the Particular Court, in session at Hartford, December 7th, 1648, brought this serious charge, in the following terms, "The jury finds the Bill of Indictment against Mary Johnson, that by her owne confession she is guilty of familiarity with the Deuill."<sup>2</sup> That she was of Wethersfield may be safely assumed from the fact that, previously, she had been severely dealt with by the Court, which August 21st, 1646, had ordered that "Mary Johnson, for theuery is to be pr<sup>e</sup>sently whipped, and to be brought forth a month hence, *at Wethersfield*, and there whipped."<sup>3</sup> This was in accordance with the custom of the times, whereby the culprit received a portion of his or her punishment in the Town of their residence for the better effect upon his or her immediate neighbors. She was duly executed on this charge of witchcraft, and Mather,<sup>4</sup> ever curious for the details of such cases,

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<sup>1</sup> *Capitall Lawes established by the General Court, the 1st of November, 1642.*

§2. Yf any man or woman be a witch (that is) hath or consuiteth w<sup>th</sup> a familiar spirit, they shall be put to death. *Ex.* 22, 18; *Lev.* 20, 27; *Deut.* 18, 10-11.—*Conn. Col. Rec.* I, 77.

<sup>2</sup> *Col. Rec. Conn.* VIII, p. 171.

<sup>3</sup> *Conn. Col. Recs.* I, 143.

<sup>4</sup> Mather has, perhaps, suffered somewhat in historic reputation from his connection with the Witchcraft delusion in New England. But Prof. John Fiske, in

gives (*Magnalia*, Bk. VI, pp. 71-8, example) this account of her: "There was one Mary Johnson, try'd at Hartford, in this country upon an Indictment of *Familiarity with the Devil*, and was found guilty thereof, chiefly upon her own Confession. Her confession was attended with such convictive circumstances, that it could not be slighted. Very many material Passages relating to this matter, are now lost. But so much as is well known and can still be prov'd shall be inserted. She said her first Familiarity with the Devil came through *Discontent*, and wishing the Devil to take this and that, and the Devil to do this and that thing. Whereupon a Devil appear' unto her, tendering her what *Services* might best *content* her. A Devil accordingly did for her many services. Her *Master* blamed her for not carrying out the *Ashes*, and a Devil afterwards would clear the Hearth of Ashes for her. Her Master sending her to drive out the *Hogs*, that sometimes broke into their Field, a Devil would scare the Hogs away, and make her laugh to see how he seiz'd them. She confessed she had murdered a child, and committed Uncleaness both with Man and with Devils. In the time of her *Imprisonment*, the famous Mr. Stone [Rev. Mr. S., of Hartford] was at great pains to promote her conversion from the *Devil* to *God*, and she was, by the best Observers Judg't very penitent both before her Execution, and at it, and she went out of the world with comfortable *Hopes of Mercy* from God, through the merit of our Saviour. Being asked what she built her Hopes upon, she answer's upon these Words, 'come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you Rest;' And these 'There is a Fountain set open for Sin and Uncleaness.' And she dy'd in a Frame extremely to the Satisfaction of them that were spectators of it." It was probably, more satisfactory to the spectators, than to poor Mary herself!<sup>1</sup>

The next case was that of JOHN CARRINGTON and JOANE, his wife, who came to Wethersfield prior to 1643. He was a carpenter and they owned a homestead on the east side of Sandy Lane, next south of Thomas Standish's, near the corner of Fort Street. It was likely that Carrington was of a somewhat lawless nature, for in March, 1648-9, he was fined "£10 for bartering a gun with an Indian." On

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Chapter V, of his "*New England and New France*," explains more clearly his real attitude towards the epidemic of persecution which marked that period of our early history; and also gives a very fair and succinct explanation of its causes, especially in those cases which occurred in Salem, Mass.

<sup>1</sup> There has been an attempt, on very doubtful authority, to fix the citizenship of this culprit on Windsor—an attempt which I had the honor of repelling in my History of that town.—See Vol. I, pp. 444-450, of said work.—H. R. S.



the 20th of Feb., 1650-1, he and his wife were formally indicted, separately, for witchcraft. The following is the record of the Particular Court:

"A Particular Courte in Hartford uppon the Tryall of John Carrington, and his wife, 20th February, 1650-1

Edward Hopkins, Gov.

John Haynes, Dept. Gov.; *Magistrates*

"Mr. Welles, Mr. Woolcott, Mr. Webster, Mr. Cullick, Mr. Clarke.

"*Jury*: Mr. Phelps, Mr. Tailcoat, Mr. Hollister, David Wilson, John White, Will. Lewis, Sam Smith, John Pratt, John Moore, Edw. Griswold, Steph. Hart, Tho. Judd.

### *Indigtment*

"John Carrington thou art Indited by the name of John Carrington of Wethersfield carpenter that not having the fear of God before thine eyes thou hast Intertained familiarity with Sathan, the great enemy of God and Mankind; and by his help has done works above the course of nature for wh; both according to the laws of God and the established laws of this common wealth<sup>2</sup> thou deservest to Dye.

"The Jury finds this Inditem<sup>to</sup> against John Carrington the 6th of March, 1650-1, (The same Court, time, and place, found an Indictment also against Joanne Carrington, wife of John Carrington, with the same verdict)

"March, 1652-3, Court Record. There was presented to this Court an Inventory of John Carrington's estate which is ordered to be filed but not Recorded.

"The estate presented being £23-11-00 and the debts Specified therein oweing by the estate is sumed up £13-01-06."

JOHN HARRISON, and his wife Catharine, came to Wethersfield to live, in 1647 or '48. Their home was on the left side of High Street, next south of Thomas Wright's. The husband, a man of good repute, having held office as "town-crier" and a surveyor of highways, died in 1666, leaving three daughters (the oldest, 16 years of age), and an estate inventoried at £610. Two years after his death, the widow, Catharine, was arrested on a charge of witchcraft and tried before the Court in Hartford, October, 1668.<sup>1</sup> During the trial many deposi-

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<sup>1</sup> See paper read before the Conn. Hist. Society, October 2, 1894, by Dr. C. J. Hoadley.

The following Testimony taken at the trial of Kate Harrison for Witchcraft, and copied by the late Miss Charlotte Goldthwaite, is here given to show our readers

tions were made by people who testified to the devilish things she had done. Before her marriage, she had been a house servant, and one of the daughters of the family where she had been employed made oath to her being "a notorious liar, a Sabbath breaker and a fortune teller." It was also deposed that she had caused illness to some persons, death to others; and that she had an unholy influence over animals; had been seen to appear as a calf and change back to her own shape, and that her form or face had frequently appeared at people's bedsides and other unlikely places. At this first trial, she was not convicted—owing to non-agreement of the jury. The suspicion of the public, however, was not lulled; in May, 1669, she was again arrested and jailed on a similar charge; was indicted at the following term of Court, plead not guilty and was tried before a jury. Again the jury failed to agree, and she was remanded to jail, until the Court should convene in

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upon what inconceivably flimsy evidence, the victims of this delusion were generally convicted.

*Richard Montague*, aged about 52 years, testifieth, that meeting with Goodwife Harrison, in Wethersfield, she said that a swarm of her bees flew away over her neighbor Boreman's lot and into the great meadow and thence over the great River to Naubuck side; but the said Katharine said she had fetched them again. This seemed very strange to the said Richard, because this was acted in a little time and he did believe the said Katharine neither went nor used any lawful means to fetch the said bees. Dated, Aug. 13, 1668, Hadley, taken upon oath before us, Henry Clark, Samuel Smith.

*Joane Francis*, her testimony. About 4 years ago, about the beginning of November, in the night, just before my child was struck ill, Goodwife Harrison or her shape, appeared, and I said: "The Lord bless me and my child, here is goody Harrison, and the child lying on the outside, I took it and laid it between me and my husband." The child continued strangely ill about three (3) weeks, wanting a day & then died, had fits. We felt a thing run along the sides, or side, like a whetstone. *Robert Francis* saith he remembers that night the child was taken ill [his wife said], "The Lord bless me & my child, here is Goody Harrison." *Joane Francis* saith that this summer Goody Harrison's daughter came for some emptyings. I told her I had none. Quickly after, I brewed a barrel of beer, and had drawn but a little of it & the barrel was not bunged, but the head flew out of one end & all the hoops from the bung to that end. The barrel was most a new barrel, we had it of Joseph Wright. The head and hoops flew to the end of the cellar & gave such a report as scared, or feared the children.

Goodwife Francis saith, that when goodwife Harrison appeared to her, she saw her by a light, there being then a good fire on the hearth. She stood with her back to the fire, she lying in another room, the door being just against her bed & against the fire. Sworn in Court, Oct° 29, 1668. Attest: John Allyn, Sec. 7.

*Alice*, the wife of *James Wakely*, aged about or above 50 years, testifieth that being present with Mrs. Robbins, in the time of her sickness whereof Mrs. Robbins died; she did see and know that the body of Mrs. Robbins was stiff so that both she and goodwife Wright, Senior, could not move either her arms or her legs although both of them tried to move them & the same day Mrs. Robbins died then her whole body was limber extraordinary, etc., etc."

the autumn. At that term, the jury found her guilty, but the Court (of Assistants) not being satisfied, sought and obtained an expert testimony from some ministers (ministers being, in those days, supposed to know more about the Devil and his doings than ordinary folks), and still not being altogether satisfied referred the matter to the General Court. She remained in jail, until May, 1670, when the General Court ordered her to be released on payment of "the just fees" of the trial, and on condition that she should leave the colony—which undoubtedly she did gladly and with alacrity. Turning her back upon Connecticut, she went to Westchester, N. Y., but her reputation had preceded her, and the citizens of that place complained of her presence to the Governor of that Province; she was placed under bonds for her good behavior and after sometime, nothing appearing against her, she was released—*exit* Catherine Harrison from history. Evidently, the New Yorkers with their civil process of bail-bond, handled "the witch" with more wisdom and better success than the Yankees with their "expert" ministerial opinions and jury trials.

There was another Wethersfield man "who was murder'd with an hideous *Witchcraft*," though not at Wethersfield, yet being so connected with Wethersfield as that his case may somewhat appropriately be related here. This was PHILIP (son of Samuel, Sr.) SMITH and one of Wethersfield's early settlers and who married Rebecca, daughter of Nathaniel Foote, the settler. He removed to Hadley with the Rev. John Russell, Jr., in 1659, and held the commission of Lieut., and became one of the Committee of the Hopkins School at Hadley, on the records of which his death is entered in connection with the appointment of his successor. Mather's *Magnalia* (Book VI, Chapter VII) gives the following most detailed and interesting account of his death by witchery:

"Mr. *Philip Smith*, aged about fifty years, a Son of *eminently* Virtuous Parents, a Deacon of the church in *Hadley*, a Member of the *General Court*, a Justice in the *Countrey Court*, a select Man for the Affairs of the Town, a *Lieutenant* of the Troop, and which crowns all, a Man for *Devotion, Sanctity, Gravity*, and all that was honest, exceeding Exemplary. Such a Man was in the Winter of the Year 1684, murder'd with an hideous *Witchcraft*, that fill'd all those Parts of *New England* with *Astonishment*. He was, by his Office concern'd about relieving the *Indigence* of a wretched Woman in the Town; who being dissatisfy'd at some of his just Cares about her, express'd herself unto him in such a *manner*, that he declar'd himself thenceforward apprehensive of receiving Mischief at her hands.

“About the *Beginning of January* he began to be very *Valetudin-arious*, laboring under Pains that seem’d *Ischiatick*. The Standers by could now see in him one *ripening* apace for another World, and fill’d with Grace and Joy to an high Degree. He showed such *Weanedness* from and *Weariness* of the World, that he knew not (he said) whether he might pray for his *Continuance* here; and such assurance he had of the *Divine* Love unto him, that in raptures he would cry out *Lord, stay thy hand; it is enough, it is more than thy frail Servant can bear*. But, in the midst of these things, he still utter’d an hard Suspicion that the ill Woman who had *threatened* him, had made Impressions with *Inchantments* upon him. While he remained yet of a *Sound Mind*, he very sedately, but very solemnly charg’d his brother to look well after him. Tho’, he said, he now understood himself, yet he knew not how he might be. *But be sure* (said he) *to have a care of me, for you shall see strange things. There shall be a Wonder in Hadley! I shall not be dead, when ’tis thought I am!* He press’d this Charge over and over; and afterwards became Delirious; upon which he had a Speech *incessant and voluble*, and (as was judg’d) in various Languages. He cry’d out, not only of *Pains*, but also of *Pins*, tormenting him in several parts of his Body; and the Attendants found one of them.

“In his Distresses he exclaim’d much upon the Woman aforesaid, and others, as being seen by him in the Room; and there was divers times both in that Room, and over the whole House, a strong Smell of something like *Musk*, which once particularly so scented an Apple roasting at the Fire, that it forc’d them to throw it away. Some of the young Men in the Town being out of their Wits at the strange Calamities thus upon one of their most belov’d Neighbors went three or four times to give disturbance unto the Woman thus complain’d of; And all the while they were disturbing her, he was at ease, and slept as a weary Man: Yea, these were the only times that they perceiv’d him to take any sleep in all his Illness. *Gally-pots of Medicines* provided for the sick Man, were unaccountably empty’d; audible Scratchings were made about the Bed, when his Hands and Feet lay wholly still, and were held by others. They beheld Fire sometimes on the Bed; and when the Beholders began to discourse of it, it vanish’d away. Divers People actually felt something often stir in the Bed, at a considerable distance from the Man; it seem’d as big as a Cat, but they could never grasp it. Several trying to lean on the Bed’s head, tho’ the sick Man lay wholly still, the Bed would shake so, as to knock their Heads uncomfortably. A very *strong* Man could not lift the *sick Man* to make him lie more



easily, tho' he apply'd his utmost Strength unto it; and yet he could go presently and lift a Bedstead and a Bed, and a Man lying on it, without any Strain to himself at all. *Mr. Smith* dies: The Jury that view'd his Corpse, found a Swelling on one *Breast*, his *Privities* wounded or burn'd, his *Back* full of Bruises, and several Holes that seem'd made with *Awls*. After the *Opinion* of all had *pronounc'd* him dead, his Countenance continued as Lively as if he had been Alive; his Eyes closed as in a Slumber, and his *Nether Jaw* not falling down.

"Thus he remain'd from *Saturday* Morning about Sunrise, till *Sabbath-day* in the Afternoon; when those who took him out of the Bed, found him still warm, tho' the Season was as cold as had almost been *known* in any Age: And a *New England* Winter does not want for Cold. On the Night following his *Countenance* was yet fresh as before; but on *Monday* morning, they found the Face extreamly *tumify'd* and discolour'd. It was black and blue, and fresh Blood seem'd *running* down his Cheek upon the Hairs. Divers Noises were also heard in the Room where the Corpse lay, as the Clattering of *Chairs* and *Stools*, whereof no account could be given. This was the End of so good a Man. And I could with *unquestionable Evidence* relate the Tragical Deaths of several *Good Men* in this Land, attended with such *præternatural Circumstances*, which have loudly call'd upon us *to work out our Salvation with Fear and Trembling*."—*H. R. S.*]

MR. LEONARD CHESTER'S ADVENTURE.—Prominent among the old-time legends with which Wethersfield mothers and nurses were wont to regale their children, was this "o'er true tale."

Mr. Chester's social and civil position, his wealth, enterprise and popularity among the earliest settlers of the town, gave to his unpleasant experience upon the mountain west of the town an importance which would, perhaps, have attached to no other person in the community. Sometime, presumably in the Fall of 1636, he set out alone (as Tradition saith) to seek a suitable site for a grist-mill which he proposed to build, on the stream which flows through the south part of the town. This mill—it may be remarked—was erected by him the next year (1637) and one has been maintained on about the same site ever since. His exploration took him, or would naturally do so, to near the source of the stream, southwest of the village of Griswoldville of the present day. This whole section traversed by the stream was, of course, then an unbroken wilderness. It may be, also, that Mr. Chester *unintentionally* pushed his journey to the upper waters of the Mattabesett, which, in fact, he crossed. This, however,

seems hardly probable, since a journey of that kind, undertaken alone, would have been, in those days, almost foolhardy. At all events, before the young explorer had made such progress on his return journey as to strike upon any well-defined trail or path which he might follow in the dark, night had fairly closed upon him, and he entirely lost his bearings—for even the north polar star was shut out from his sight, by the dense foliage. So, when, at last, day broke, he was really further away from his home than when he had started to return to it; and yet it was possible (so he must have fancied) that he might have *gone by* the village, and must retrace—if he could—the steps he had taken during the night. In the meantime, his neighbors at Pyquaug had become alarmed at his continued absence; and parties, with drums, muskets, pails and pans of tin-ware, copper or brass—anything, in fact, with which to make noisy sounds and signals—had begun to search the woods, in all directions. It was not, however, *until the third day after he left his home* on Broad Street, that he was found and, in fact, rescued from starvation by his friends. In his uncertainty as to his whereabouts and place of destination, Chester had dragged himself, with failing strength and in famished condition, to the summit of a mountainous peak or ridge, in the extreme southeast part of what is now Berlin Township. From that place, a distance which, measured in a straight line, would be *very near twelve miles from where he started*, he hoped to be able to see, if he might not be able to reach, the little settlement which held all that was dear to him. The result was more fortunate than he had expected. From that elevation, he was able, for the first time, to hear the noises and calls of his friends, and (what must ever be considered a most remarkable turn of chance) he descended in the direction whence these noises proceeded, and found himself safe and unharmed in the hands of his rescuers. Fortunately, he had met no Indians, and, though he had heard the howls of wolves and the screams of catamounts, he had not been followed or attacked by either. It was in memory of this event, which might have proved almost a public calamity, that the elevation in question, received and has ever since retained, the historic name of “Mount Lamentation.”<sup>1</sup>

A MYSTERIOUS POT OF MONEY.—In 1885, clerks in the Hartford Probate Office, in the course of a re-arranging and systematizing of the

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<sup>1</sup> In Peter Parley's *First Book of History* (1832), this adventure of Mr. Chester is related with child-like simplicity of statement, in connection with a mention of Weth.; and as if it was the only event of any importance which ever happened in the town.

records of that office, discovered a great many things of interest in the old papers and documents which had been stored away out of sight, many of them for two centuries. Among these was an old suit, which, in its day, must have furnished a delicious bit of scandal and gossip for the good people of Wethersfield, but which had actually been eradicated from all remembrance, or even tradition. This was a suit, brought by Mrs. Mary Chester (widow of the first Col. John Chester) as plaintiff, in the Probate Court, July 25, 1721, Joseph Talcott being then Judge. In this record, in the quaint phraseology of the day, "she vehemently suspects John and Bezaleel Lattemore, Mary, wife of John, Sybil, wife of Bezaleel; Mary Baxter, wife of Thomas Baxter, and Elizabeth Baxter, have gotten into their possession and concealed contrary to law, a quantity of hard silver money unknown, with other goods of value, belonging to the estate of John Chester." The Court's warrant for bringing the accused parties to Hartford for examination, is a singular document, reading thus:

"Mr. GOODWIN—You are desired by y<sup>e</sup> plaintiff to be very vigilant. Defendants all dwell in one house. Ye four women you must bring on horseback, and so must provide assistance accordingly. Mr. [Sheriff Ezekiel] Williams will, if need be, provide pillions. I believe you cannot attend y<sup>e</sup> warrant without three assistants at least. Be careful to keep them [the last of this paragraph torn, or worn away]."

The accused, male and female, were taken to the Court. Most of the evidence, however, offered in support of Madam Chester's suspicion, was of a hearsay character, and depended upon the veracity of a negro, named George, belonging to the Lattemores, another negro, Richard and an Indian called Antonio. This Indian's story was that coming out of the meadow, once on a time, he saw Bezaleel Lattemore's negro George. He looked very melancholy and Antonio asked what was the matter; to which George replied that his folks had beaten him. On being asked why they had so treated him, he said it was because he had told of finding a kettle, of about three quarts, filled with money, in the cellar wall; and that his mistress had threatened him, if he ever told that story again, his master would hang him up and dig a hole in the ground and bury him alive—and that he was so afraid that he couldn't sleep; and the folks would not let him see Mr. Chester's negroes. The negro Richard, also, testified that George, in digging, had come upon the pot of money with a lid upon it, and had taken some and put it in his pocket, but it was gone in the morning. His grandmaster took the pot and carried it home. He thought there must

have been two or three hundred pounds in it. One statement was that it was a *bag* with money in it "half so large as his arm," etc. The four women who had been haled to Court about it on horseback, denied all knowledge about the matter, and the case went against Madam Chester, for want of sufficient evidence; though the Judge recorded his opinion that there was "room for suspicion."

Another story of this kind, though belonging more properly to Rocky Hill, relates to *Capt. Kidd's* treasure as follows:

It is reported and believed that the celebrated pirate, Capt. Robert Kidd, once entered the Connecticut River, and penetrated it as far as this town; and a hollow below the present "Ship-yard" and directly opposite the fish-house on the east side of the River, known by the old inhabitants of Stepney and Glastonbury, as *Tryon's Landing* is honored by tradition as the spot where he buried some treasure. The late Charles Williams, used to say, that of his personal knowledge, strange people sometimes came from long distances and dug in that hollow—which was still in existence until the Valley R. R. was built; and that persons belonging east of the river also dug there; also, that there was a tradition that, at that spot Kidd, in anger, killed one of his mates by a blow with a water-bucket, and that the ghost of the murdered man kept guard over that spot. He said, also, that in the first quarter of the 19th Century, there was scarcely an inhabitant of the town who could be induced to pass through "Tryon's Landing" after 10 p. m., even for a reward of \$5. Mr. Amos Wilcox, also, in passing through these woods once came unawares upon two men digging earnestly, when both started affrighted and placed their hands over their mouths as a sign to him not to utter a word. This was in the line of the old tradition concerning treasure-seekers, that not a word must be spoken, on pain of the treasure (reputed to be in an iron pot) immediately sinking again into the bowels of the earth, even if the bail of the pot were in the clutch of the discoverer.

THE STRANGE STORY OF ELIZABETH CANNING.—The following copy of an original letter, in the possession of Mrs. Mary D. McLean, of Wethersfield,<sup>1</sup> introduces us to a strange bit of personal history, which has already attracted the attention of some of our local antiquarians.

"Uncle's letter to Mr. Elisha: You will learn y<sup>e</sup> present state of his sore, which tho' I hope is such as affords favorable apprehension as to a cure gives none as to a very speedy returne. His pain is at times

<sup>1</sup> Copied by S. W. Adams, Feb. 15, 1889, from the original in possession of Mrs. Mary D. McLean, of Wethersfield.



great & it now forbids his writing to you after y<sup>e</sup> other letter; he therefore refers it to me to mention a few things. He hears Cap<sup>n</sup> Birnham [Burnham] is come in, & would be glad y<sup>t</sup>. Rum & whatever other things he brings, we shall want in y<sup>e</sup> family, such as sugars, coffee, indico, etc., you will save sufficient quantity. If limes, or lemons, or oranges, let their juice be saved in bottles; either with rum or covered on y<sup>e</sup> top with oil. If any letters come forth to send them hither & to lay *Betty Canning's* by till our return. I would also desire you to send by y<sup>e</sup> bearer all y<sup>e</sup> garden seeds (I mean of flowers) which remain unsown (except those for y<sup>e</sup> borders) & some reddish [radish] seed, garden cresses, as also 2 p<sup>d</sup> of chocolate. We should be glad of a line to know how y<sup>e</sup> servants behave, as well as concerning y<sup>e</sup> health of y<sup>e</sup> whole; & whether *Betty Canning* is easy at Newington, where I wish she may continue till our return; among other reasons y<sup>t</sup> she might become mistress of spinning. We doubt not your care of y<sup>e</sup> servants, peculiarly this week of liberty; nor of your earnest prayers for your dear Uncle's valuable—may I not say invaluable—life & health; which may they be answered in our comfortable return. I am D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

Yours effecttionately

ELIZ. WILLIAMS.

"I have sent y<sup>e</sup> key of y<sup>e</sup> parlour & y<sup>e</sup> closet in it, y<sup>t</sup> you may send us about  $\frac{1}{2}$  p<sup>d</sup> of green tea. You'll keep ye doors lock'd & be pleased to lay up the keys with care. If ye hams have not been sent for, to y<sup>e</sup> malsters, you'll be so kind as to do it immediately. Pray send also 5 ounce of snuff.

"Accept our love & tender it to Couzz<sup>n</sup> Christian; & let us be remembered to y<sup>e</sup> serv<sup>ts</sup>, with desire & expectation of their behaving well.

[Superscription]

MR. EZEK'LL WILLIAMS,

in Wethersfield.

1755."

This is evidently a portion of a letter written by Madam Williams, the second wife of Rev. Rector-Col. Elisha Williams (the Elizabeth Scott whom he married in Eng.) to her husband's nephew, Ezekiel Williams (afterwards a prominent figure in Wethersfield during the Revolutionary period), who had been left in charge of the family home in Newington during Rector and Mrs. W.'s absence—and at the time of what proved to be the Rector's last illness. The letter itself reveals Mrs. Williams' fine character—education, refinement, ability, firmness

and attention to detail as a housekeeper; thoughtfulness for all in her family, and especially a sense of deep responsibility for her servants; as well as of tender and wise regard for the poor unfortunate girl so providentially brought to her door—a waif from beyond seas.

Briefly told, the story of Elizabeth Canning is a remarkable one. She was, at the time she first comes to our knowledge, 18 years old, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Canning, of Aldermanbury, London, England, and a servant in London. On January 1st, 1753, she left her master's home to visit her aunt, a Mrs. Thomas Colley. Between 9 and 10 o'clock that evening, she left her aunt's home to return to her master's, accompanied partway by her uncle. As she did not reach her master's home by the next morning, enquiry was made of her mother, who was surprised to hear of her absence; a reward was then offered for the discovery of her whereabouts; but nothing came of it, until, after she had been missing nearly four weeks, she appeared at her mother's, January 29th, in a most pitiable condition, emaciated, insufficiently clothed, and bruised and sore from evident ill-usage. Her story was, that after her uncle had left her and when near Bedlam Wall, she had been waylaid, struck down insensible and thrown into a "convulsion fit" (to which she had been subject, owing to an injury to her head received some years before), then gagged and robbed. The two men who thus maltreated her (one of whom she afterwards identified as John Squires) then dragged her to a house of ill-repute, in Enfield Wash, kept by "Mother" [Susannah] Wells, a "hempen widow;" (*i. e.*, a woman whose husband had been hanged); and of the other inmates of the place, one, a widow, was Mary Squires, a gypsy whom Elizabeth asserted had robbed her, on her entrance, of her stays. She further stated that, on her refusal to lead an abandoned life, she was shut up in a second story chamber, where for four weeks she subsisted on a loaf of bread and 4 quarts of water—seeing no human being during that time, except once when she saw some one peeping at her through the door. She finally effected her escape by pulling off a board from a window. Her story (in itself not at all inconsistent with the state of morals, and lack of police protection in London, at that period) naturally caused much excitement. The women whom she said had been instrumental in her detention were arrested and tried in the Old Bailey; Squires, the gypsy, for robbery, and Wells for being accessory thereto, before Fielding, the novelist, who was at that time a City Magistrate; and although strenuously protesting their innocence, were tried before the Lord Mayor's Court. The gypsy woman (Mary Squires) was sentenced to be hanged on

the charge of having stolen Elizabeth's stays—value 10 shillings. "Mother" Wells was sentenced to be branded with red hot irons; which was done, and it said that when the mob smelled the odor of the woman's burning flesh, they yelled with delight. Smollett, the novelist, also, was much interested in the case, as was Ramsay, the artist, who published his views in a *Letter from a Clergyman to a Nobleman*.

The matter was in every mouth, the newspapers of the day exploited it widely, and dozens of pamphlets were issued, taking opposite sides. Soon, however, the tables were turned on Elizabeth, by the production of fresh evidence that the gypsy woman, then under sentence of death, had been over 100 miles away at the time of the occurrence with which she was charged and she was pardoned—to the great dissatisfaction of the mob, who manifested their indignation by smashing the windows of the Lord Mayor's carriage, because he had aided in the reversal of the sentence. Then Elizabeth was tried, before a bench of 17 magistrates, including the Lord Mayor and the Lord Chief Justice, on a charge of wilful and corrupt perjury in swearing a felony against (and thus endangering the life of) the gypsy woman Mary Squires. The trial lasted seven days—verdict *guilty*, and she was sentenced 30 May, 1754, to one month's imprisonment in Newgate, and transportation, to one of the British Colonies, for seven years, on penalty, if she should ever return and be found within that time, in the limits of Great Britain or Ireland, of suffering death as a felon, without benefit of clergy.<sup>1</sup> She probably was sent to Philadelphia, in the ship *Myrtilla*, which sailed from Deal, England, in the latter part of August, 1754. It has been impossible, up to the present time, although much research has been spent upon the question, to ascertain whether Elizabeth Canning was an impostor or not. On her trial, 36 witnesses on one side and 26 on the other, testified, under oath, to facts which were utterly irreconcilable. Henry Fielding, the novelist and judge before whom Squires and Wells were tried, believed in her innocence and wrote a pamphlet in her defense.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This case has attained a somewhat extended celebrity, as may be judged from the following list of authorities:

Howell's *State Trials*, XIX, 262-693, 283, 1218; *Trial for Perjury in the Old Bailey, London*, 1754; *Celebrated Trials*, IV, 172; *Chamber's Journal*, XVIII, 108; *Ecclesiastical Mag.*, XXVII, 246; *Blackwood's Mag.*, LXXXVII, 581; *Conn. Courant*, No. 404, 1773; *London Notes & Queries*, II, 27, 75, 117, 216; XI, 484, 509, XII, 30, 76; Padget's *Paradoxes and Puzzles*, 1874, p. 318; Dr. Hill's *Full and Authentic Account, etc.*, 66; Churchill's *Glast.*, 182; and various newspapers of the period—besides a paper read by Mr. JOSEPH G. WOODWARD, of Htfd., before the Conn. Hist. Soc'y and discussions thereon.

<sup>2</sup> Magistrate Fielding, who took her examination, with five years experience as a



MARY SQUIRES, the Gypsy,  
convicted on account of  
Eliz<sup>b</sup> Canning, but after-  
wards reprieved. (*From  
an old print.*)





It was proved on her trial and not denied that she had been an honest girl, with a moral character that was blameless and irreproachable. It seems very improbable that such a previously innocent girl of only 18 years of age should have concocted such a story, as she testified to under oath, and persisted in during her life, especially as death was the penalty for robbery at that time. No evidence that she was anywhere else, during her four weeks absence, than at the house she described, has ever appeared. This is certainly a strong point in favor of her innocence. Those who knew her best believed her.

Voltaire, the great French philosopher, wrote her life in England in connection with a case then eliciting much attention in France (that of the Calar Family) to illustrate the danger of trusting to circumstantial evidence. Of course, she had many friends in England, who presented her with £100 previous to her deportation; and one, a Mrs. Cooke, of Stoke Newington, contributed £100, to be put at interest, under four trustees, the whole sum to be given her, if she behaved well and if she returned to England after seven years, that she might be established in some sort of business. To this kind benefactor she sent the following letter (without address or postmark), which will possess interest to our Wethersfield readers, from its pleasant allusions to Rector Williams and wife:

“Hon. Madam—I am so unfit to write to such a Lady as yourself as has made me offend in not writing so long, and now I do not know how to do it, but I hope you will excuse what is amiss. I am greatly thankful for all your abundant favors to me, and hope God will reward you tho’ I can never do it, but I will pray for you and I hope I shall never forget to do that, and I thank you for them from my heart. I thank God I have had good health ever since I came here, only once broke my leg which has been long well, only a little painful at times. I have lost my master the Colonel [Rector-Col. Elisha Williams], who was a good friend indeed. My poor lady is greatly sorrowful: hope God will comfort her. She is very kind to me. I hope my friends will not have me from her as she is willing to keep me. I do not

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magistrate, in this pamphlet that he published soon after, pronounced Elizabeth Canning to be “a child in years and yet more so in understanding, with all the marks of simplicity that I ever discovered in a human countenance.” “Before noblemen and magistrates and judges she went through her evidence without hesitation, confusion, trembling, change of countenance, or other apparent emotion—the highest impudence or the most perfect innocence.” The opinion of this great writer, with his knowledge of human nature, and his official acquaintance with the evidence in the case is certainly entitled to great weight, though it may not solve the mystery of her guilt or innocence.

know where to find such another. I hope, Madam, I shall forever have cause to bless God I ever came to this House, and for all affliction which was the cause of it, as I always have occasion to bless God for such friends as yourself. Pray, Madam, accept my humble Duty who am your grateful servant.

ELIZ. CANNING.

April 29, 1755.

[It seems; from a passage in a letter of a Member of Congress, who in 1790, visited Wethersfield, that she was brought to America, in the same vessel with Rector and Mrs. Williams—whose kindness offered her a home in their own family. Her position in this family evidently was not that of a menial—for the Colonel had negro and Indian slaves to do that kind of work—but she was regarded as a poor, persecuted girl, whom fortune had strangely thrown upon their hands, for whose future welfare they were solicitous. In Madam Williams' letter as given above, the whole tone of reference, both to Elizabeth and to the other servants of the house, marks the distinction which the mistress made between them—as, also, the anxiety she must have felt during her absence from home in attendance upon her invalid husband, as to the conduct of this strange young girl of doubtful antecedents. She was not, however, long burdened with this responsibility, for, in 1756, Elizabeth married John Treat, a “scatter-brain young fellow,” though of good family, being a grandnephew of Governor Robert Treat; in the Indian war campaign of 1757 and '58, he served as a private in Capt. Eliphalet Whittlesey's (Newington) Co.

In 1761, according to an item in the *Annual Register* (England), for that year (p. 179), Mrs. Treat returned to England to receive a legacy of £300 left her three years before by an old lady in Newington—perhaps, the same Mrs. Cooke before referred to.

Both Treat and his wife started their married life with about £1,500 between them, but, being of too easy a disposition, this sum was soon spent and their house had to be sold. She d. in 1773;<sup>1</sup> he in 1796.—See *Treat Genealogy* in Vol. II.—*H. R. S.*]

*Grave Robbing.*—The following, which floated in upon Mr. Adams, from the *Des Moines* (Iowa) *Leader*, by favor of a Western correspondent—although he had not identified the lady in question with any of

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<sup>1</sup>Hartford, June 22d. Last week died very suddenly, at Weth., Mrs. Elizabeth Treat, wife of Mr. [John] Treat, formerly the famous Elizabeth Canning—*Conn. Courant*, June 15-22, 1773.

Wethersfield's dames—seems to date from this town, and may, therefore, be admitted to our pages, if not to our confidence. It is the tradition of a lady, who lived here in the last century, died—as was supposed, and was buried; and being, moreover, of a wealthy family, bore to the grave with her a valuable diamond ring upon her finger. The night after she was committed to the grave, two men opened it, on robbery intent. Finding that the coveted ring could not be removed from the finger, they attempted to cut off that member. The first gash of the knife brought the lady out of her trance (for such it was) and she sat upright in her coffin. This so frightened the robbers that they could not run away, and she finally persuaded them to take her home, only a short distance from the old graveyard. This they did, and left her by the door, upon which they rapped heavily, and disappeared from view as rapidly as possible. The door was opened by the lady's husband, who was greatly frightened when he found himself not at all a widower. The lady recovered her health (as well she might, after such an experience) and lived twenty years longer.

THE BEADLE MURDERS, 1783.—Chief Justice Mitchell of Wethersfield, a friend and neighbor of WM. BEADLE, wrote a very full account of the murderer and his crime. This was first published as an appendix to the sermon preached by Rev. John Marsh at the funeral of Mrs. Beadle and her children, printed some time in 1783. The account then appears anonymously, in *Dwight's Travels*, and also in Barber's *Historical Collections of Connecticut*. It is only recently that the discovery was made, that it was written by Judge Stephen Mix Mitchell. The manuscript is, we believe, preserved among the records of the Third School District.

Of WM. BEADLE's early life, Judge Mitchell writes:

“He was born in the County of Essex, in a village not very far from London. \* \* \* He left a mother and sister in England, where he had a fair character for integrity and honesty. In the year 1755, he went out to the Island of Barbadoes, in the family of Charles Pinfold, Esq., Governor of the Island, where he tarried six years; then returned to England, purchased some merchandize and from thence came to New York in the year 1762, and immediately removed to Stratford, in this state, from thence to Derby, and then to Fairfield, where he married and dwelt for some years. By this time he had acquired about £1,200 with which he removed to this town, about ten years since (1772) where he resided until his death. His business was that of retailing \* \* He refused to give credit, intending to keep his



property within his own reach, believing it always secure while his eye was upon it. While here he added considerably to his stock, some of which he invested in real estate, etc., etc.”<sup>1</sup>

“When the war commenced, he had on hand a very handsome assortment of goods for a country store, which he sold for the currency of the country without any advance in price;<sup>2</sup> the money he laid by, waiting and expecting the time would soon arrive when he might therewith replace his goods, resolving not to part with it until it should be in as good demand as when received by him \* \* \* \* He finally lost all hope, and was thrown into a state little better than despair, as appears from his writing \* \* \* He was determined not to bear the mortification of being thought by his friends poor and dependent, etc.

“He fixed upon the night succeeding the 18th of November, 1782, for the execution of his nefarious purpose,” but this plan was frustrated. On the evening of December 10, or rather on the early morning of

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<sup>1</sup> [The following “Advertisement, addressed to the Ladies,” in the *Conn. Courant*, indicates a degree of enterprise not then common to the storekeepers of that day, who usually confined their advertisements to prose, and to very limited space. The advertisement itself bears witness to the popular excitement concerning the use of tea, which had agitated the people of the Colonies since 1772:

“Fair Ladies, ‘tis not very arch,  
To talk about the first of March,  
That woful day, when each of ye,  
Must leave your darling Nectar, Tea!  
Your China, which attracts the Eye,  
Like Lumber, must neglected lie:  
And dearest Tea-Kettle’s harder Lot,  
Must change him to a Porridge Pot.  
But now, methinks I hear you say,  
Sufficient is the evil Day.  
Then why should you, with Raven’s Note,  
Anticipate the fatal Vote,  
That must deprive us of our Joy,  
And all our future Peace destroy?  
Sweet Fair Ones, though I tell this story,  
Upon my Word, I am no tory.  
In spite of all tyrannic Tools,  
I mean to follow Virtue’s Rules.  
And now I pledge my word, and say,  
The noble Congress I’ll obey.  
Who *maugre* Power, Pride or Skill,  
Dares to be free and virtuous still.  
And you’ve a month to make your Plea  
Concerning this same Idol, Tea.

Now, tho’ I send to let you know,  
I have a hundred Weight, or so,  
It is as good as e’er was tasted;  
Then must all this be lost and wasted?  
If a Market I should miss on’t.  
Pray help me out, and make a Dish on’t  
When March sets in I vow at once,  
A Joe shant purchase half an Ounce.  
I’ll lock, and barr, and set a Spell on’t,  
Nor shall a Mortal ever smell on’t.  
Yet stop a moment! on my Life!  
For now I think on’t, I’ve a Wife.  
And if she proves of Eve the Daughter,  
To have a Kind of Hankering after  
This noxious Herb, and when I’m gone,  
With Ax or Hatchet should lay on,  
With Arm and Will, both bold and stout,  
Should find this potent Poison out:  
This Thought bewilders all my Sense,  
For what would be the Consequence?  
Then help us keep our virtue sound,  
And quickly purchase ’tother pound.

—William Beadle.”

Wethersfield, January 28, 1775.

H. R. S.]

December 11,<sup>1</sup> he sent the maid away on a visit to a physician, saying that Mrs. Beadle was ill. There is reason to believe that he had killed Mrs. Beadle just before this. Judge Mitchell describes the events as follows:

"He smote his wife and each of the children with an axe on the side of the head as they lay sleeping in bed; the woman had two wounds in the head; the skull of each of them were fractured; he then with a carving knife cut their throats from ear to ear. \* \* \* The woman and little boy were drawn partly over the side of the bed, as if to prevent the bedding from being besmeared with blood. The three daughters were taken from the bed and laid upon the floor side by side, like three lambs before their throats were cut; they were covered with a blanket, and the woman's face with a handkerchief. He then proceeded to the lower floor of the house \* \* \* carrying with him the axe and knife \* \* \* It appears he then seated himself in a window chair, with his arms supported by the arms of the chair; he fixed the muzzles of the pistols into his two ears and fired them at the same instant; the balls went through the head in transverse directions \* \* \* "

A note sent by the maid to the physician (as above mentioned) referred to the murderer's purpose. The house was soon opened.

"Multitudes of all ages and sexes were drawn together by the sad tale, etc., etc. So awful and terrible a disaster wrought wonderfully on the minds of the neighborhood, etc.

"Near the close of the day on the 12th of Dec., the bodies being still unburied, the people who had collected in great numbers, grew almost frantic with rage, and demanded the body of the murderer; the law being silent on the subject, it was difficult to determine where the body should be placed; many proposed it should be in an ignominious manner where four roads met, without any coffin or insignia of respect, and perforated by a stake. Upon which a question arose where that place could be found which might be unexceptionable to the neighborhood—but no one would consent it should be near his house or land. After some consultation it was thought best to place it on the bank of the river between high and low water mark; the body was handed out of the window and bound with cords on a sled with the clothes on as

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<sup>1</sup> "Having fixed upon the evening to carry his design into effect, he procured a fine supper of oysters, of which his family partook; that evening he wrote, 'I have prepared a noble supper of oysters, that my flock and I may eat and drink together, thank God and die.'"—*Dr. Marsh's Sermon.*

it was found and the bloody knife tied on his breast, without coffin or box, and the horse he usually rode was made fast to the sled—the horse unaccustomed to the draught, proceeded with great unsteadiness, sometimes running full speed, then stopping, followed by a multitude, until arriving at the water's edge, the body was tumbled into a hole dug for the purpose like the carcass of a beast. Not many days afterward there appeared an uneasiness in sundry persons at placing the body so near a ferry much frequented; some threatenings were given out that the body should be taken up and a second time exposed to view. It was thought prudent it should be removed, and secretly deposited in some obscure spot; it was accordingly removed with the utmost secrecy; notwithstanding, some children accidentally discovered the place, and the early freshets partly washed up the body, and it has had a second removal to a place where it is hoped mankind will have no vexation with it. On the 13th of December, the bodies of the murdered were interred in a manner much unlike that of the unnatural murderer. The remains of the children were borne by a suitable number of equal age, attended by a sad procession of youths of the town, all bathed in tears; side by side the hapless woman's corpse was carried in solemn procession to the parish churchyard, followed by a great concourse, who with affectionate concern and every token of respect were anxious to express their heartfelt sorrow in performing the last mournful duties."

"'Tis doubtful whether any history of modern times can afford an instance of similar barbarity.

"Mr. Beadle left sundry letters directed to his acquaintance, and one labored treatise in justification of his conduct. He professes himself a Deist, but reprobates Atheism.<sup>1</sup> \* \* \* Much has been said in favor of publishing his writings by those who have not seen them; those who have perused them doubt the propriety of such a measure. He attempts to attack all rules in church and state, treats the Christian religion with a great degree of bitterness and bigotry; and yet absurdly concludes by saying 'if it is true he shall be saved by it.' etc., etc., etc."

Pres. Dwight, of Yale College, in his *Travels*,<sup>2</sup> also relates pretty fully the story of this tragedy; and adds the following facts in connection with it:

"The wife, under very painful impressions from his extraordinary conduct, particularly from the fact that he continually brought an axe,

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<sup>1</sup> "Early became familiar with an infidel club in London and imbibed their opinions."—*Dr. Marsh's Sermon*.

<sup>2</sup> *Dwight's Travels in New England and New York*, 1823, I, 199.

and other implements of death, into his bed chamber, dreamed frequently and in a very disturbed manner. One morning, she told him that, in her sleep, the preceding night, she had seen her own corpse, and the corpses of her children exposed in coffins in the street, that the sun shone on them for a long time, and that they were ultimately frozen. This dream made a strong impression on Beadle's mind. In his writings he mentions it as having solved all his doubts; and as a direct revelation from Heaven that it was lawful for him to put his wife also to death. He had previously doubted his right to take her life, because being the child of another person, she was not his property, or under his control, in the same sense as were his children, whom he considered his own property."

See *Wethersfield Cemetery Inscriptions* for the epitaph on monument of Mrs. Beadle and children. The Beadle family are buried in the northern part of the yard in a single grave. About 1790, a tombstone was erected on the grave. It is a sandstone slab resting on brick walls, raised originally about 3 feet above the ground. The inscription is said to have been written by the Hon. John Davis, of Boston. The house where the murder was committed stood on the south side of Sandy Lane (on Hartford Ave.), near the present residence of Jas. A. Myggatt, Esq. It was torn down many years ago.

This tragedy in a quiet Conn. village, awakened the greatest interest and horror throughout New England—such occurrences not then being as common as they have since become.

Judge Mitchell, the author of the foregoing account, entered upon the Town's records, a long statement of the event under date of December 17th, 1782, in which he says that the Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Third School District, were unable to report, "*in consequence of the general consternation and confusion which ensued,*" etc.

A sermon was also published on the event by Rev. John Marsh, pastor at Wethersfield; and another at Wallingford, the latter, entitled:

"*MEN'S SINS NOT CHARGEABLE ON GOD, BUT ON THEMSELVES. A Discourse Delivered at Wallingford, December 22, 1782, Occasioned by the tragical exit of William Beadle, his wife and four children, at Wethersfield, on the morning of the 11th instant, by his own hands. By James Dana, D. D., Pastor of the First Church in Wallingford, New Haven,*" [1783], 8vo., pp. 28.

Regarding this murder, the following incident has been related: "Some old soldiers accidentally passing through the town on their way



from camp to visit friends, led by curiosity, turned aside to view the sad remains. On sight of the woman and her tender offspring, notwithstanding all their firmness, the sympathetic tear stealing down their furrowed cheeks betrayed the anguish of their hearts. On being shown the body of the sacrificer they paused a moment, instinctively placed their hands on their swords, half withdrew them from their scabbards, then muttering forth an oath or two of execration with their eyes fixed on the ground in silent sorrow, they slowly wended their way." This recalls the last line of the victims' epitaph, "And Indignations half unsheath their swords."

SLAVERY AND NEGROES IN WETHERSFIELD.—Slavery was not limited to the black race alone. It is probable that most of the earliest slaves in the Colony were Indians, prisoners of war. Not only were such captives sold to servitude, but their progeny were born slaves, or "servants;" as bondmen were sometimes called, down to 1700. Some were sent to the West Indies, and blacks, or mulattoes, brought back in their stead. We give some facts regarding slavery in Wethersfield.

When JOHN LATIMER died, in April, 1662, he left an Indian slave, appraised at 24 pounds; while a negress and child, also belonging to him, were together appraised at 22 pounds.

In February, 1687-8, SAMUEL SMITH was required by the Court of assistants to pay to "the daughters of *Necesasion*, an Indian," four yards of trucking-cloth, or twelve bushels of Indian Corn, for having carelessly killed their parent, at said Smith's house in Wethersfield.

In 1690, Mr. SAMUEL WOLCOTT was complained of, in the same Court, for beating his servant *Shumackpock*; evidently an Indian.

Among the earliest slaveholders must have been LEONARD CHESTER. When he died, in 1648, a "Neager maide" belonging to him was appraised at 25 pounds.

Rector ELISHA WILLIAMS (Colonel, Clergyman and Judge), was the owner of a squaw slave. He records the birth of two of her children: *Ambo*, 5 June, 1715, and *Desire*, 17 Feb., 1717. John Wiard sold his Negro, *Anthony*, his freedom in 1711.

Judging from the number of manumissions recorded, there must have been many negro slaves in Wethersfield. Some of the facts connected with the grant of their freedom are interesting.

In November, 1766, *Quash Gomer* bought his freedom from JOHN SMITH for 25 pounds. Gomer's grave is marked by a suitably inscribed stone in the cemetery. In March, 1768, SARAH WEBSTER freed, unconditionally, *Pop*, inherited by her from her mother [widow] MARY WARNER. In October, 1769, DAVID BELDING [Belden] released *Jupi-*

*ter Paine*, whom he had inherited from his father, Capt. Jonath. Belden. In December, 1776, SARAH WEBSTER released *Jerry*, for the consideration of 40 shillings. In May, 1777, DAVID GRISWOLD released *Caesar*, whom he had bought of Col. Chester; conditioned that the freedman serve three years in the Continental army. He did so serve (so his discharge says) "with reputation," in the 5th regiment. In the same month, JOHN WRIGHT and LUKE FORTUNE freed *Abner Andrew*, whom they owned jointly. Four years later, Abner bought a wife *Zipporah*, from JOHN ROBBINS, for 40 pounds. In June, 1777, WILL. WARNER released *Caesar*, conditioned that the latter enlist for three years in the Continental Army. At the same time, WILL. GRISWOLD, released *Cato Lewis*, freedom to commence three years later, and Cato to "pay Dr. Jepson's bill." In January, 1778, PHINEHAS ANDRUS [Andrews], "being convinced of the injustice of the general practice of this country, in holding the Negroes slaves, during life, without their consent"—released *Prince Nauqui*, aged 47, unconditionally. In November, 1779, JOHN BELDEN released *Sampson*, in consideration of 400 pounds, Continental currency. In August, 1780, ELIAS WILLIAMS releases *Caesar Freeman*, aged 18; he to enlist, for three years, in Col. Webb's regiment. In April, 1781, ABIGAIL GRISWOLD, and her daughter, ABIGAIL, released *Bristow Miranda*,<sup>1</sup> in consideration of "100 Silver dollars." In July, 1782, JOHN CAMP released *Pomp*, unconditionally. In December, 1782, Gen. Washington, at Newburgh, discharged *Hector Williams*, a former Wethersfield slave, for disability. ELISHA WEBSTER had two negro men (one *Cato*) and one negro woman. In July, 1782, JOHN CAMP released *Pomp*, unconditionally. ELISHA WEBSTER had two negro men (one *Cato*) and one negro woman. When JAMES KNOWLES paid Mr. Ep. Williams £2 for a pair of shoes for himself (1750?), he paid 10s. for a pair for his *negro man*; and Col. JOHN CHESTER, 1748, paying £1.12s. for a pair for his wife, paid also the same price for a pair for his "*negro wench*." ELISHA WILLIAMS bo't shoes of Mr. Eph. Williams for his negro *Peter* and his Indian woman. Col. CHESTER had negroes named *Jim*, *Frisk* and an Indian girl "*Lettis*," and the baptisms of most of the Chester family's negroes were all duly recorded in the Wethersfield Church Records.

From an old Chester (MS.) we copy the names and birth dates of nine slaves, who must have belonged to the third John Chester, viz.:

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<sup>1</sup> In September, 1780, "Bristoe Mirandy" was warned out of Boston, under the Vagabond act. [See *Hist. Mag.*, VIII, p. 172.]

*Dick B.*, Sept. 7, 1751; *Timon*, Sept. 14, 1753; *Phillis*, Mch., 1751; *Caesar*, Mch., 1754; *Asher*, May, 1755; *Maubry*, 1757; *Sabian*, 20 Aug., 1759; *Chloe*, 14 Sept., 1761; *Sylva*, Dec. 2, 1766.

The Act of 1784, provided that negro and mulatto children, born after the first day of March, in that year, should become free on attaining the age of 25 years. Consequently, no person born in this state after 1809, could be a slave in Connecticut. But many years later there remained some, who had been born before that date. And it was not till 1848, that our law absolutely emancipated all slaves.

[*London* was the name of a (native African) slave that belonged to Col. JOHN CHESTER, Sen. He was at one time "Governor," of the blacks for Connecticut; for in the last century, the negroes had a custom of electing one of their number as their ruler for a year to whom they gave this title.<sup>1</sup> *London* was imported when a little child from Africa and spoke better English than did most of his race. His wife, *Betty*, is said to have been an Indian. She died in 1787. Some time after he had reached his prime, he was made free. He removed to Indian Hill, in West Simsbury, where he was still called "Governor," and is said to have died near the close of the last century, aged about 80 years, and a pauper of the Town of New Hartford. Abiel Brown's *Geneal. Settlers of W. Simsbury* (now Canton), p. 140, gives the following anecdote concerning him. He said that in the early part of his life with Master Chester, he saw one morning what he thought to be a very pretty puppy; he accordingly seized him with a view to play with him, but the *skunk* soon convinced him that he was playing with the wrong animal. From that story arose, in Simsbury, the name of "Wethersfield puppy."—*H. R. S.*]

[Many advertisements appear in the newspapers of the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, offering rewards for runaway slaves; and even as early as the beginning of the 19th Century, slaves who accompanied their Southern master in their visits to the North, were not averse to improving the opportunity to escape from bondage—aided, not infrequently, by Northern friends, whose abolitionist tendencies were even then beginning to manifest themselves in New England. In June, 1803, the following notice appeared in the *Mercury*: "The very *Ho-no-ra-ble* John Rutledge, late a member of Congress S. C. and of 'Daily Rose' and blustering duel memory, has arrived in Wethersfield in this State, to spend the summer." This notice,

<sup>1</sup> Some interesting anecdotes of the gubernatorial aspirations of these Connecticut slaves, etc., will be found in Stiles' *Hist. and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Conn.*, Vol. I, p.

inspired doubtless by political, if not by personal enmity, finds its sequence, in the following advertisement which appeared October 22d, of the same year, in the *Columbian Centinel* and *Massachusetts Federalist*, Boston, headed, "*Two Hundred Dollars Reward.*"—"Absented herself last night from the service of Mr. Rutledge, a negro woman who is his property, named *Phillis*. She is 35 years old about 5 feet 8 inches high, of a yellowish complexion (between that of a negro and a mulatto), thin, has lost her front teeth, has thick lips and a scar, from having been burnt when a child upon her breast near the right shoulder about half the size of a dollar. *Phillis* wears gold bobs in her ears, and a black straw bonnet. She carried with her petticoats of blue cloth, dimorthy [dimity?], black calimance, red home spun; a dark calico gown with yellow spots, one of black and white, one of white checked muslin; she also took with her eight yards of dark calico with bright yellow spots, two checked aprons not made up, new red and white cotton handkerchiefs, with many other articles of dress. *Phillis* was a good cook, washer-woman and cake baker.

"A black fellow named *Peter*, also absented himself from the service of Mr. Rutledge, some weeks past when he was in Boston. *Peter* is not quite 6 feet high, much pock-marked, had red eyes, and his upper teeth wide apart. He is an excellent coachman, a tolerably good cook, plays the tambourine and is very fond of dancing. *Peter* is a little bald, wears his wool in a short queue and occasionally wears ear-rings. He took with him a variety of clothing. Whoever will apprehend and deliver these slaves to the subscriber, or secure them in any goal in New England so that he may get to them will receive the above reward of 200 dollars, or 100 for either of them.

"CHESTER CLARK.

"Weathersfield, Conn., Oct. 15, 1803."

Whether the Southerner recovered his slaves or not, his Northern trip must have proved unsatisfactory and expensive to him.—*H. R. S.*]

ODD NAMES.—There are in Wethersfield, as in other old towns, a number of localities bearing very singular names, the meaning of which it is very difficult to find out, or even to guess. Of some of these we have made notes, which may prove of interest to our readers. Some of these queer names may have arisen from events which have long since passed from the memory of man; others are evidently "corruptions" of old words, or names, not now in use.

*Tap-Howe* or *Taphow*.—This name, as appears from an old survey in the possession of Roger Welles, Esq., appertained to land in Hog



Meadows, Wethersfield. Indeed, some old people, in Newington, remember having heard it applied to Cedar Hill; sometimes called Cedar Mountain. The name is unmistakably Indian; and Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull tells us that it means "Thank you," or, is of the same import.

In a deed, dated April 29th, 1684, to Serg. Thomas Judd and John Stanley (both of Farmington) of a tract of land lying in the present townships of Wolcott, Waterbury, Middlebury, Watertown and Plymouth, the instrument is signed by eight Indians, mostly of the vicinity of Farmington, or the Tunxis region. The third name in the order of signatures is that of *Taphow*; while the last one is that of *Quatowquechuck*, "Taphow's Son." In Orcutt's *History of Derby*, a deed dated August 26th, 1674, is referred to. It conveys a tract of sixty square miles, to a committee acting in behalf of the settlers at Mattatuck (now Waterbury and vicinity), and is signed by fourteen Indians. The first signer was *Nesaheagen* (a chief of the Pouquannock Indians had borne this name), and one of the same name signed the Wethersfield deed of 1673; the second signer was *John Compound* (Counpounce Pond derives its name from this Indian); the fifth signer was *Taphow*. These deeds are indicative of a kinship, or common bond or tie, of some sort, between the chief aboriginal proprietors of a large domain lying between the Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers, and extending nearly to Long Island Sound on the south and the northern boundary of Connecticut on the north.

Concerning this S. W. ADAMS says:

"In Captain Eliphalet Whittelsey's Company, of General Lyman's Command, in several campaigns of the French war (1756 to 1760), we find that sundry Indians were enrolled as soldiers. Captain Whittelsey was of Wethersfield, and most of his men (as is apparent on examining the muster rolls) were from that township. Of these Indians, the names were: In 1756, *Sockhegon*, *Stephen Quesod*, *Richard Toroway* and *Isaac Suneemon*; in 1758, *Ambo*, *Dando* (or *Tando*), *Daniel Neepash* and *Stephen Taphow*. Where an Indian had been given a forename it may be assumed that there were other Indians bearing the same surname.

"Ambo, so it stands recorded, was the son of Rector Elisha Williams' Indian slave-woman. *Suneemon*, corrupted to *Cinnamon*, may have been an ancestor of "Old Cinnamon," still remembered in Wethersfield. *Cinnamon* was more black than copper colored; but, of the imported slaves, the males largely outnumbered the females; hence many of them found their female partners among the red people, many of whom were also slaves. *Dando* or *Tando* was probably of that Tando family,

some members whereof are still remembered in Wethersfield. People who have seen them say that they appeared to be of mixed African and Indian blood. A water-course in Wethersfield still bears the name of "Tando's brook." There was a *Neepash* in Farmington, but he had no forename. The other Indians named, we have not attempted to trace; but it is not unlikely that they, including Stephen Taphow, were among the last of the Indian race in Wethersfield. Taphow, who served and was paid for his full term of service, perhaps lived in the wild region which bore his name, and by the spring which still retains it. What is more probable?"

Roger Welles, Esq., says, in a letter (1891) to Mr. Adams, "The piece of land called "Taphow" belonged to my great grandfather, Solomon Welles, and the survey was found among some of my Uncle Martin Welles' papers. It was called "Taphow, or Hog Meadow." So, I judge, that they were both names of the same locality. The land, I suppose, descended to my grandfather and then to my Aunt Mary Welles (wife of Martin) Kellogg. \* \* \* I have also been informed that the mountain in that vicinity was called "Taphow," and the name, I imagine, covered quite an extent of territory." Concerning the Meadow above referred to, Mr. Adams makes the following note:

*Hog Meadow.*—"I first find this name in 1683, when it is made the western bound of a town-common for sheep. It was then given to the same section as now. Its swampy character probably made it a favorite place for swine; droves of which were then kept running at large in the wild lands belonging to the town in general."

*Sodom.*—John Robbins' lot, in the upper end of Fearful Swamp, was described as being in "Sodom," in a record of 1673.

*Two-Stone.*—The earliest instance we have found of this name, is in a Town vote of 1695, referring to a tract of 40 acres, bought by Capt. John Chester, of Capt. Robert Seely's heirs. It was between the north-and-south highway of the present Griswoldville and the Collier brook. In 1697, ten acres of land was given by the Town to Lieut. James Treat "near Two Stone brook, on the east side of the highway." The name is still sometimes given to Griswoldville. Tradition says the name was given from the fact of two great stones formerly there; but I have heard of no precise locality to which they were assigned. The name is older than that of Griswoldville; which section was not inhabited by any of the Griswolds nor by any other settler, probably, before 1712.

Mr. CHARLES WILLIAMS, of Rocky Hill, in a letter (1894) to Judge Adams, says: "Sixty years ago, Griswoldville was called and known in this part of the town, as 'Two Stone,' probably from 'Tombstone' or 'Two Stones,' but pronounced as if spelled 'Toostone.'"

*Newfields.*—In the same letter, Mr. Williams, also says: "*Newfields*" was named in this way. The land was a common, known as "The Plains." When it was enclosed and put under cultivation it was called "New Field." My grandfather, Elias Williams, took in a large portion of this land, a part of which is now known as the "Pent Farm." West of this farm and at the foot of "Cabul Hill," there then lived a man named Theodore Blinn, who made plows and harrows, which were wonderful as to strength and durability. The shear was of hammered wrought iron, while the mould-board was of two-inch oak plank, fitted in in such a manner that it stood up almost square. These plows did not *turn* the furrow, but left it up on the edge. Blinn made two plows, one for my father, and one for my uncle, who took these fields in the division of Elias Williams' estate. The plow made for my father weighed nearly 300 pounds; the other was a trifle smaller. The soil of these Newfields was thin and densely covered with scrub-oaks and white birch. These were cut down close to the ground. The body of the plow was taken from the cart and the chain from the plow fastened around the axletree. The cattle were then put on—often twelve yoke, never less than ten. The beam of this plow was a timber six inches square and some eight feet long—holes were bored in it near the end, into which a stout stake was driven on each side; one man on each side held the stakes to keep the plow straight, while one held to the handles to keep the plow up. Two or three men drove the team, while two more followed the plow to pull out the roots which it turned up. Of course, the plow took a wide furrow and the heavy team tore out all roots it came in contact with; and after all this work, ten or twelve bushels of rye was all that could be raised from one acre. But, labor was cheap, and with all the team and men, it did not cost as much to plow an acre of land, as it now does."

*Cabul*, or "*Coo Bull*," or "*Cape Bull*," referred to above, was a name applied to some hills in the west part of Rocky Hill—though the appellation extended into Cromwell and perhaps some further. Tradition accounts for the name in this way. The early settlers here turned their cattle on to these hills to feed. In looking for the cows, at night-fall, the boys called "Coo-Coo-Coo;" and they soon discovered a curious *echo*, which reiterated the call three times. The call being repeated rapidly, the echo would come back "Co-bull, Co-bull Co-bull"—and



WETHERSFIELD GIRLS WEEDING ONIONS.

*(Reproduced from print in Peters'  
History of Connecticut.)*





to this day that part of the town is by the oldest people called Co-bull, or as found referred to in old ledgers, etc., spelled and pronounced *Cabull*. Wethersfield, without Ca-bull, would be like Wethersfield without her onion gardens.

*Egypt* is an area in the old village, situated about at the intersections and the territories adjacent thereto, of the South Lane Road, Back Lane continued, and road leading from Broad Street to South Lane—a tract largely owned, from early days to the present time, by the Robbins Family. An old resident has favored us with the following explanation of how it derived its name: "You have doubtless read, in Bible history, the story of Jacob's sons going down into Egypt to dickie with Pharoah for corn, and the bother they had in getting it home.

About the year 1816, there were, in this region, *severe frosts every month in the year*, and corn crops were mostly a failure: "Pharoah" Robbins, a large planter of that day in Wethersfield must have had quite a stock in hand of the corn crop of 1815; and a grand rush was made for planting, in the spring of 1817, by all of Jacob's boys in the surrounding territory, who came to "Pharoah" Robbins to buy corn. They had no trouble in leaving their shekels and carrying off the corn, and you may be sure there was no Joseph around to put any of the sheckels into the sacks. The *boys*, when asked where they were going, or where they had been, to get the corn, generally replied, "down into Egypt to buy corn!"

Thus the name—which applied merely to a small area—only a short distance from Broad Street, and less to Harris' Hill, and before we lose sight of F. H. Robbins' house, now standing there, we are in South Lane (now Middletown Avenue). The Robbins' house referred to, is an old house; but I can remember a much older Robbins' house which stood very near the present one, but was demolished some 30 or 40 years ago. These houses faced westerly, and stood upon high ground. Only about 3 rods in front of them ran Tando's brook and the ground is low and swampy. In the rear of these houses is the nice *Plain corn ground*."

*New France Street*, which included the Beckley Quarter and the Beckley Mills, is a needless corruption of the original "New Farms" Street.

*Lord's Field* was a large tract on which neither trees, or bushes, or much of anything else would grow. It belonged to nobody and nobody wanted it—and our aged informant (Mr. Deming, then in 1894, nearly 80 years old) said it was called "The Lord's Field," he supposed, for the reason that no one else claimed it. He also spoke of

"*Vexation Hill*," which was on the "20-rod highway" and is mentioned in a deed from Wm. Hurlbut to a Lydia Moulton, as late as October, 1815. It was bounded east on Elisha Robbins' land, west on highway, north on land of John Warner and south on James Hurlbut's—and contained about 100 acres. It is said that an old negro woman hung herself in that quarter, and the people buried her body on top of the hill in the 20-rod highway (a survival of the old custom of burying murderers and suicides at a road crossing, with a stake driven through the body) and called the hill "*Vexation*"—and it was said that the ghost of the poor woman had since haunted the spot. The highway in question was never used except for drawing wood. Our informant, also spoke of the place called

*Hang Dog*.—A locality lying northwest from the Methodist church at Rocky Hill.

*Warrineagues—Whirlneagues—Wollaneag*.—In the *Conn. Courant*, October 3, 1894, Judge Adams prints an interesting article, part of which we here reproduce:

"I remember that, nearly fifty years ago, people then living in the south part of Wethersfield (more especially in the vicinity of the mill pond) were greatly agitated, not to say terrified, by reason of the supposed nightly appearance there of a "*wollaneag*" (or, as some pronounced it, "*woollynig*") which haunted that old water-scape. The creature had much the shape of a human being; but it had horns, and was said to exhale and inhale fire, or phosphorescent light; to walk on the water, etc. And, although it was shot at, it was not hit, or at least was not hurt. Many amusing stories were current of the mishaps which it wrought upon unwary travelers; boys, especially.

"It turned out, some months later, that this strange thing was a man (Walter Dewey, I think) who had taken this means to frighten the lads, who had been in the habit of raising the water-gate and "*raising Hob*" (or *Hobgoblin*) generally. He had rigged himself most fantastically for that purpose. A few persons were in the secret; and probably some of these were the ones who had shot (or pretended to shoot) at him, without effect.

"In May, 1683, the Court of Assistance, at Boston, tried Mary Webster of Hadley for witchcraft. It was alleged in the indictment against her that, 'not having the fear of God before her eyes, and being instigated by the Devil, she hath entered into covenant and had familiarity with him, in the shape of a *warraneage*,' etc. The late Sylvester Judd, the painstaking historian of Hadley, in commenting upon this



MAIN ST. LOOKING NORTH FROM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.



MAIN ST. LOOKING SOUTH FROM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

VIEWS ON MAIN ST. WETHERSFIELD.

*Photo. by Albert Morgan.*





trial, says: 'Worraneag, in some Indian dialects, was the same as the Nipmuck wallaneag or woolaneag. It was the fisher, or pecan, or wild black cat of the woods.' So it seems that the name was applicable to a quadruped, as well as to a supposed biped."

"A 'fisher' was the animal known to zoologists as *mustela Pennanti*, or Pennant's weasel, now probably extinct in these parts. It was also called the Pekan weasel. Some naturalists say that it was 'more fox-like than musteline' and that it was sometimes 'as large as a fox.' I have the impression that the term 'fisher' was also sometimes applied to the otter. Perhaps this 'weasel' was the kind referred to by President Dwight in 1796, and which he then mentioned as an animal (in Vermont) of twelve pounds' weight."

"*Punkin-Town*" was a name applied to the Western School District of Rocky Hill; old residents of that section confess to having been called, from their earliest recollection "Punkin-towners," and habitually refer to it by that name.

One of Mr. Adams' correspondents enquires "Did you ever hear of the *Ghost of Goffe's Bride*?" Well, neither Mr. Adams or myself, ever did hear of it; but suggest that the query might have more reasonably read the "*Ghost of Goffe's Bridge*." But, of that also, we are ignorant; unless some other "old settler" will resuscitate it for our edification.

The *Boston Gazette*, of July 30, 1764, has the following item: "We hear from Rocky Hill, in Connecticut, that a negro fellow, belonging to Mr. Boundykee [Brandagee?], having been offended, took a knife with a flint and ran up to the garret, where there was half a barrel of powder open; struck fire therein, which blew him and the roof of the house into the air, and tore him to pieces. A man in the house saw him strike fire once, which did not catch, and saved himself by running down stairs just before the explosion."

This house stood on the site now (1894) occupied by the new factory, a short distance from the depot of the Valley R. R. Tradition further informs us that this desperate negro's body was found down by the woods south from the building; a hole was dug in the ground, into which he was tumbled and hastily covered over.

*Fearful Swamp*—vs. "Fairfield Swamp"—Concerning the swampy part of the meadow on the west, through which runs the line between the towns of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill, we must insist that the use of the word Fairfield here has no significance; it is a corruption of the ancient and appropriate name, Fearful. Originally, the water which now goes into Wethersfield cove at the Folly, and which first gets up

under the east side of Hartford Rocky Hill, all came south along where the Valley railroad runs to Egypt, then crossing the cart road, as now, and keeping south through an arm in the meadow at about the present town line, met Goff's brook from the west and northwest. In the spring these two streams brought a large body of water to this point, and the overflow into the low lands and made a swamp of two or three hundred acres, in which was a heavy growth of swamp oak and maple entangled with bushes and wild vines. "The Fearful swamp" it was called; and Fearful swamp is the proper name for the location.

*The Old Elm at Buck's Corner.*—In the year 1776, the grandmother of Mr. Henry Buck was standing at the door of her residence, built the year before, on the corner of Wethersfield Avenue and Jordan Lane, when an old and earth-soiled Indian came along with a little sprig of an elm tree under his arm. He pleaded with her to exchange the sprig for a quart of rum, which was at that time kept in every house in New England, and he was so weary and pleaded so hard that her kind heart was touched and the exchange was made. He went off down the road happy with his rum; and she stooping down near the house planted the sprig. She has long since gone to her Heavenly home; and the magnificent elm on the south side of Mr. Buck's residence, eighteen feet in circumference and its grand old branches spreading eighty feet above, is the outcome of the little sprig that was planted over one hundred years ago. It is one of the grandest old trees in this town which is remarkable for its many heaven towering elms, and many a time has the writer stood beneath its protecting branches, on a hot summer's day, and recalled, in fancies sweet imagination, the history of its planting so many years ago. About fifty rods east of Wethersfield Avenue where the Valley railroad now crosses, is a little hill, at that time it was the bank of the Connecticut river, and when the ground was broken for the railroad numerous skulls and arrowheads were found indicating that at some time a band of Indians had encamped there. Perhaps the old Indian who gave the people of Wethersfield such a beautiful land mark belonged to that tribe and perhaps he was one of the famed band of Sonquassen, that at one time held undisputed claim to what is now known as Dutch Point.

*The Deep Way.*—This highway, or part of one, is first mentioned in a town vote of 1672, when a commission was chosen to "run the lines belonging to" it. It is again mentioned in 1674, when the town authorized its repair, so as to make it "passable for carts." It was in the Meadow, at the lower end, between lands of Lieut. John Chester and



THE ANDRUS HOUSE, Newington.



THE *Oldest* GRISWOLD HOUSE now standing in Wethersfield, built 1737, on site of house of Michael Griswold, and occupied (1890) by his lineal descendants, Mrs. Burditt and Miss C. Hurlbut.





"Old" Sam. Smith. In 1673, it was called Dirty Hollow, in a town vote authorizing Lieut. Chester to mend and "heighten" it "with a whelm."

*Amobesett*.—An aboriginal name for a section of Sandy Plain land, lying partly in Wethersfield, and partly in Middletown; now in Rocky Hill and Cromwell. It was at first shortened to "Besett," and is now commonly called *Bishop's Plain*; to which form it appears to have become permanently corrupted. Mattebesett adjoins it on the south.

*Farmington Village*.—In 1716, the settlement on the "Mile-in-Breadth," near what was afterward called Stanley Quarter, was called Farmington Village in a vote of Wethersfield, which established a highway extending therefrom to "Swamp Village," now the northern part of Kensington.

*Swamp Village*.—The settlement in Great Swamp parish, which included Beckley's Quarter and vicinity, was so called in our records for a time. It was known by this name in 1716; when a highway through it was ordered by vote of the Town.

*Tree Plain*.—This was so called in a Town vote of 1713; when liberty was granted to certain persons to erect a sawmill on the stream dividing it from Deming's plain. Tree Plain lay to the west of Deming's plain, which see.

*Tappin's Hill*.—This was so named from Capt. Thomas Tappan, or Topping, as the name was sometimes written—who owned land there prior to 1640; about which time he removed to Wepawang, afterward called Milford. It was the hill next west of Buck's corner, on Jordan Lane, as it is now called. The latter was then called the "Road to the Country." The name Tappin's Hill appears in a Town vote, as late as 1705.

*The Creek*.—This is the name given to that hollow (usually more or less filled with water, at its southern extremity), which separates Wright's Island from the Wethersfield Great Meadow. In its place was formerly that part of the river which separated the same sections. It is not probable that the name "Creek" was substituted for that of "River" until after 1770. Indeed, there are deeds of a much later date, wherein the latter name is still given as the eastern boundary of lots adjoining the west side of what we now call the Creek. But, in these cases, usage retained the old name, after the disappearance of the river itself.

[FLOODS, EARTHQUAKES AND CONFLAGRATIONS, 1638-9 to 1854.—In common with the other towns on the Connecticut River,

Wethersfield has witnessed several *remarkable* floods. The first of these was that which occurred in March, 1638-9, and of which Matthew Grant, then Recorder of Windsor, made most careful note, thirty-nine years after its occurrence. It commenced on the 5th of March, an "exceeding great storm," which lasted with more or less violence until the 18th—and "on the 22d, at night, it was well fallen, and yet it was high as the highest flood we had known before"<sup>1</sup>—referring evidently to the usual annual spring floods with which this river is visited. It did much damage and the fame thereof went out with the length and breadth of the land, so that Gov. Winthrop mentions it in his *Journal*, where speaking of the southeast storm, which indeed seems to have prevailed all over New England, he says: "There came such a rain withall, as "raised the waters at Connecticut twenty feet above their meadows, etc."<sup>2</sup>

The next (recorded) great flood was that of 1683, of which *Mather*<sup>3</sup> thus speaks:

"Some remarkable land floods have likewise happened in New England. Nor is that which came to pass this present year to be here wholly passed over in silence. In the spring time, the great river at Connecticut useth to overflow, but this year it did so after midsummer, and that twice; for, July 20, 1683, a considerable flood unexpectedly arose, which proved detrimental to many in that colony. But on August 13, a second and more dreadful flood came; the waters were then observed to rise twenty-six foot above their usual boundaries; the grass in the meadows, also the English grain, was carried away before it; the Indian corn by the long continuance of the waters is spoiled, so that the four river towns, viz.: Windsor, Hartford, *Weathersfield*, Middle-Town, are extream sufferers. They write from thence, that some who had hundreds of bushels of corn in the morning, at night had not one peek for their families to live upon. There is an awful intimation of Divine displeasure remarkable in this matter, inasmuch as August 8, a day of public humiliation, with fasting and prayer was attended in that colony, partly on the account of God's hand against them in the former flood, the next week after which the hand of God was stretched out over them again in the same way, after a more terrible manner than at first."

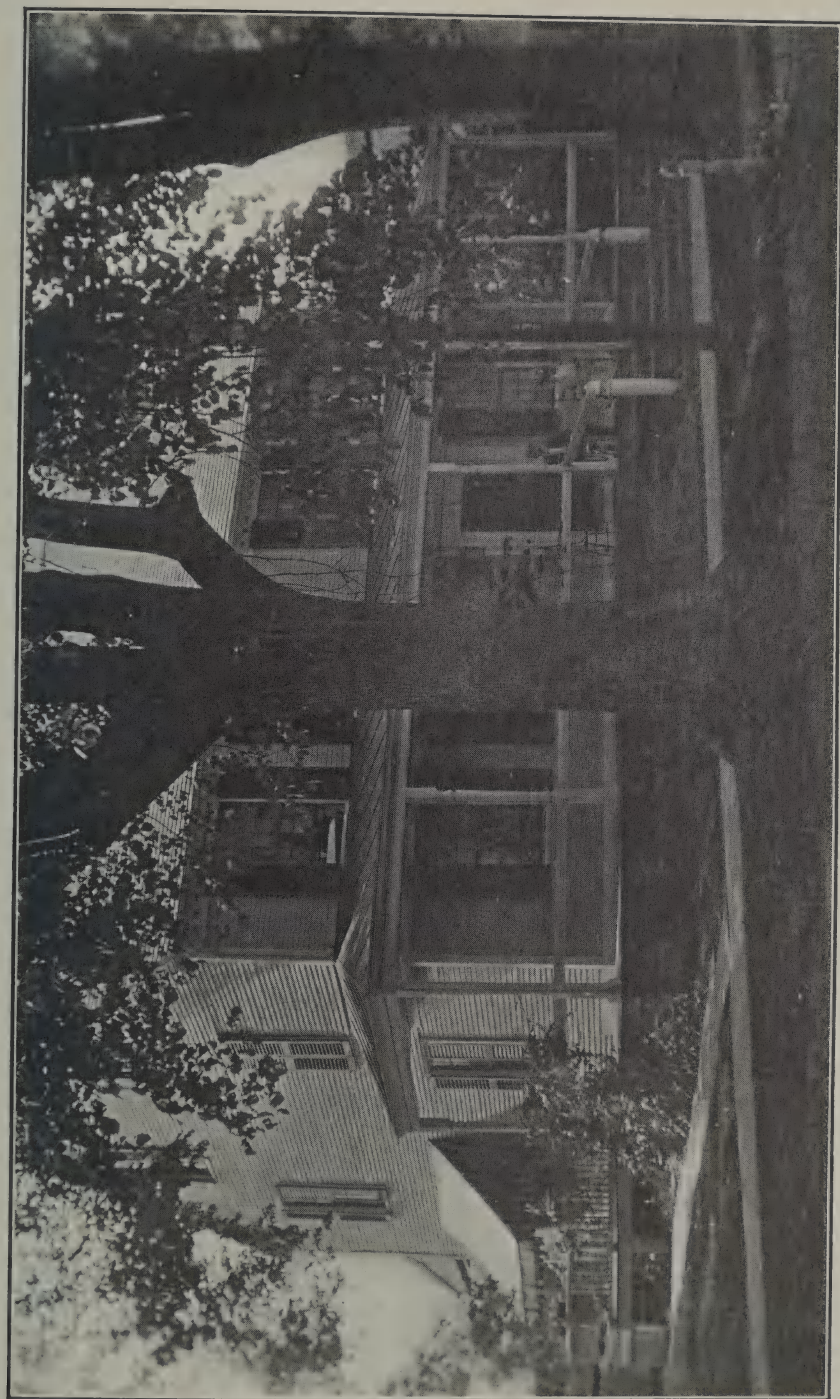
The next "great flood" was that of 1692, when the waters attained

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<sup>1</sup> Stiles' *Hist. and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Conn.*, I, p. 74.

<sup>2</sup> Winthrop's *Hist. of New England* (Savage's Edition), I, p. 352.

<sup>3</sup> Mather's *Remarkable Providences*, the 1856 Edition of the original, pub. at Boston, 1684, p. 232.



THE CHESTER PLACE—RESIDENCE OF MR. E. HART FENN, Built by Hon. Silas Deane, 1764.





the height of 26 feet, 2 inches; then that of 1801, 27 feet, 2 inches; 1839, 23 feet; 1841, 25 feet, 6 inches; 1843, 26 feet, 3 inches; 1852, 23 feet, and 1854, when it reached 28 feet, 10½ inches, above low water mark, being *higher by one foot and eight and a half inches* than any other flood during the 200 years of the town's existence, and one foot, eight and one half inches higher than the celebrated flood of 1801. This flood of 1854, began on April 27th, (a hot day) with a sudden change of temperature of about 30 degrees and a heavy thunder storm, which ran into a settled rain from the Northeast and a thermometer ranging from 38 to 44. On the evening of the 29th, the wind changed to southeast and the already heavy rain increased in violence. For 66 hours (or nearly 3 days and 3 nights) the rain was incessant, often very heavy and for the last 16 hours falling in torrents. May 1st, it came to an end—doing immense damage throughout the whole extent of the river.

*The Great Earthquake of 1727.*—On the night of the 29th October, 1727, occurred an earthquake, which was very generally felt throughout New England; and as these seismic disturbances were less common then than now, it attracted great attention; and was the cause of several sermons, wherein it was duly “improved” to the religious sense of the community. Among these sermons was one by the Rev. STEPHEN MIX, pastor at Wethersfield, and which is the only one of his sermons known to have been published. From a copy in the Boston Public library (see *ante*, p. 332), we quote the title page, as follows:

*“Extraordinary Displays of the Divine | Majesty & Power, are to Try | Men and Impress the Fear of Gad on | their Hearts, that they Sin Not | Being the Substance of | Two Sermons | occasioned by a Terrible | EARTHQUAKE | in New England, | and other parts of North America. | In the Night immediately following the | Sabbath-Day, October 29, 1727 | Publickly Delivered in Wethersfield, on November the 5th and 12th, the Sabbaths | next succeeding the said Earthquake. | Something Enlarged | By Stephen Mix, M. A. | Pastor of a Church there. | Psal. LXXVI. For that thy Name is near, thy | Wondrous Works Declare. | Psal. LXVI, 7. He ruleth by His Power forever. | N. London, Printed by T. Green, 1728. |”*

There are two copies of this sermon in the library each bound up in a volume with other sermons. In one of these volumes are other sermons on the same earthquake, by John Cotton, Boston, February 28, 1728; Samuel Wigglesworth, Ipswich, November, 1727; John Fox, at Woburn; “Remarks on the Earthquake,” by Dr. Mather, in Boston, on the morning following the event; also, “A Speech, by one of

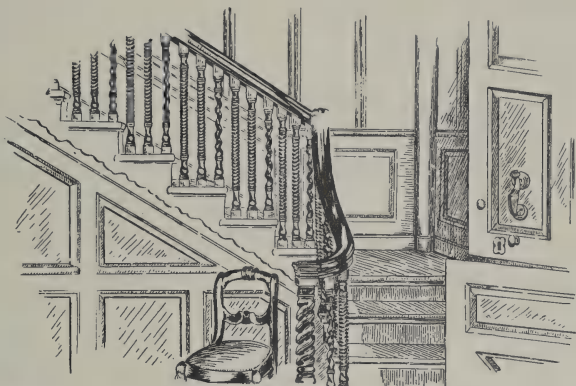
the Ministers of Boston;" a sermon by John Danforth, of Dorchester, November 7, 1727. Several of these sermons contain descriptions of greater or less extent, of the physical effects of the earthquake, in their respective localities.

In Mr. Mix's sermon, there are two pages of prefatory matter, the first paragraph of which is the *only* one dealing with what we now should so much like to know—the *physical* effects of this disturbance. It is as follows: "A. D. 1727, October 29th, Being the Sabbath Day in the Night immediately following, between the Hours of Ten and Eleven, there was an Earthquake in and probably through New England and other parts of Northern America. It came on with a Grave and Heavy Sound (some apprehended the sound as the Burning of a Chimney, other as of remote Thunder) which might possibly be attended with a small Trembling, towards the ending of which Grave Sound, there seemed a very strong shock, and then such shaking that wreck'd the Strong Buildings so sensibly, as it seemed scarcely safe to be in them, awakened Persons out of their sleep, filling many with CONSTERNATION."

A much more intelligent and valuable record of an equally important natural phenomenon is that given by Rev. John Lewis, pastor of Stepney parish, of the *Great Hurricane* which visited Wethersfield on August, 1787. Mr. Lewis' account of this terrible event was published in the *Conn. Courant*, issue of 18th August, 1783, and is as follows:

"Mr. Lewis addresses himself to "MESSRS. PRINTERS" and says: 'When any extraordinary event attended with dreadful effects occurs, the curiosity of the public is excited, and it is proper it should be gratified; such an event occurred on Wednesday the 15th instant in the tremendous hurricane which passed near the north line of the parish of Stepney in this town.' Mr. Lewis next expresses his gratitude to God that the hurricane passed a little to one side of the center of the village; says modestly that he has been gathering facts for three days and even then may have let in errors; but that the account is correct to the best of his belief and plunges into the description which is certainly graphic and interesting even at this late day.

"On the day I mentioned the wind was very fresh from the southward; at about twelve at noon an unusually black cloud appeared to be ranged from the western to somewhat the northern point, its upper edge was indented and formed irregular columns, something resembling pyramids, which reached to within about 35 degrees of the zenith—the appearance of this cloud, I took notice, was different from the common thunder-cloud being one continued sheet, singly defined at the edges,



FRONT HALL STAIRWAY IN THE SILAS DEANE HOUSE.



FRENCH MANTEL IN THE SILAS DEANE HOUSE.





and not a congeries—it did, however, produce a peal or two of thunder, and a little rain—this happened I think between the hours of one and two o'clock p. m. At about three o'clock p. m. the hurricane was seen to appear near the western boundary of Stepney parish—a violent agitation in the clouds had indeed been before observed in the western quarter; but now, from a rising ground it displayed itself in its full extent, replete with undescribable horror.—A black column from the earth to the cloud, of about thirty rods diameter, so thick that the eye could not pervade it, whirled with amazing velocity and a most tremendous roar—it appeared luminous and ignited, and was charged with broken pieces of fence and huge limbs of trees which were continually crashing against each other in the air or tumbling to the ground. This appearance continued but a few moments; when the columns instantly divided horizontally at a small distance from the earth—the upper part appearing to rise, while the lower part exhibited the appearance which a huge body of thick smoke would do were it dashed by a strong vertical wind, spreading itself to the extent of sixty or eighty rods. At once you might observe it, at a small distance forward, apparently burst from the ground, like the thickest smoke, spread the above distance on its surface, then whirl and contract itself to the size of the column I now describe; but in no instance did the cloud appear to stoop towards the earth. In this manner it appeared, with longer or shorter intervals of the compact column, during the whole space in which I have been able to collect accurate information; with this exception only, that in the easternmost part of the observed space for a considerable distance, it was not seen to be luminous or ignited; though each described its bursting from the earth, as giving them the idea of fire, which they really supposed, until it was past, consuming everything in its way. It moved in a direction, when first noticed, somewhat to the northward of east, but soon changed to nearly east. In this direction and almost instantaneously after it was observed, it arrived at the house of Mr. Wait Robbins, who was himself absent, as were two of his children; his wife, four children, an infant of five months old, a labourer and a female negro servant, made up what of the family were at home; the labourer was at this time in the barn. All observed it nearly at the same time and attempted their escape from the buildings—Mrs. Robbins with her babe in her arms, and two little boys and the labourer fled to the distance of about thirty-five yards, where the labourer past her a few paces, and was overtaken by the hurricane, thrown over a fence into a garden and escaped with little hurt. Near the place where the labourer past them, the two little boys were

found, amidst the rubbish of the demolished building—the eldest, about ten years of age, lifeless, the other it is feared mortally wounded. Mrs. Robbins, with her babe still in her arms, is supposed to be hurled by the violence of the hurricane more than twenty yards back toward the house, for there she was found dead, with the babe lying a few paces distant, wounded, but not mortally. The servant with the other two children, fled on a different course; they were all wounded, but likely to recover.’ This occurrence was evidently what, in these later days, we know as *a cyclone*.

“The account continues with a picture of the vicinity after the cyclone, houses and barns blown away, trees uprooted and carried long distances, the effect at the height of the storm being awful, ‘boards, bricks, timbers and whole trees filling the space from the earth to an amazing height.’ Stone walls were leveled and boards carried over a mile, and some of Mrs. Robbins’s clothing was found in Glastonbury, three miles away. The hurricane caught a sloop in the river and hurled her ashore on her beam ends, and then went through Glastonbury, *Eastbury*, and *Coventry*, where the local report stops.<sup>1</sup> It appears to have started near *New Britain* and done damage in the south part of *Newington*, though nowhere so much as in *Wethersfield*.

All this was one hundred years ago to-day. Had it happened yesterday the story would have been telegraphed all over the country, but probably no account would have equaled in graphic detail or interest the rigidly accurate story of the man who signs himself simply ‘*J. Lewis.*’ ”

The house here referred to was near the north end of *Stepney* parish, but the site is now in *Wethersfield*. Mr. Robbins put up a new house on the site of the one destroyed. It is (1890) occupied by Wm. Griswold, a descendant in a female line, and stands just south of the mattress factory near the north end of *Brook Street*. Besides Mrs. R. and the boy of 10 killed outright, another child of about 4 died October 23d. The 10-years old son was by name *Austin*, the younger one *Samuel*. A dress of Mrs. Robbins was carried to *Glastonbury* and lodged on a barn on the place where a sister of hers was then living. It is related, on the authority of the mother of the late *Charles Williams*:

“The morning of the hurricane Mr. Wait Robbins started on horse-

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<sup>1</sup> Pres. Stiles, of Y. C., says of this hurricane (*Diary*, III, 277): “It began in *New Britain*, about 2 p. m., and traversed *Glastonbury*, *Bolton*, *Coventry*, *Mansfield*, &c. One branch thro’ *Windsor*. At abt. 6. p. m., reached *Malden, Mass.* Its greatest severity was at *Wethersfield.*”



THE ROBERTSON HOUSE.



THE STANDISH HOUSE.

*J. B. Standish, Phot'r.*





back to go to Vermont. As he was journeying along in the afternoon he became very uneasy about his family and this increased to such an extent that he stopped for the night some miles short of where he intended to have stopped. His anxiety had increased so much during the night that as soon as daylight appeared he was on his return, and some ten miles above Hartford he met the messenger that had been sent to recall him. Many considered it as 'a hand of Providence' in thus warning him."<sup>1</sup>—*H. R. S.*]

*Conflagrations.*—Wethersfield has suffered from two very considerable fires, of sufficient importance to render them memorable in her history. The first of these was in August, 1831, and is thus described in the *Conn. Courant* of the day following:

"Yesterday afternoon about 1 o'clock our citizens were alarmed by the ringing of bells occasioned by the arrival of a messenger from Wethersfield with the intelligence that a destructive fire was raging in that town. Several of our fire Companies with their engines, hose, hooks, etc., and a large number of citizens immediately started for the fire, and arrived in season to render some assistance to the almost exhausted inhabitants of the place. The fire started between twelve and one o'clock in a barn belonging to J. Williams, Esq., and attached to his dwelling house near the meeting house. It immediately communicated to the adjacent buildings and was not finally subdued until five dwelling houses and several barns connected with them were entirely destroyed. The buildings consumed were the house owned and occupied by John Williams, Esq., Mrs. Tryon's house, Dr. Samuel B. Woodward's house, a large building owned by John Williams, Esq., and formerly occupied as a tavern (Allen's), and the house owned and occupied by Miss Brigden was pulled down to keep the fire from spreading.

"The fire was one of the most disastrous we believe ever experienced in the towns in this vicinity, and the ruins extending for some distance in this delightful village present a most melancholy appearance. Part of the property was insured." The fire was of incendiary nature, by a servant girl of Mr. Williams.

The second fire was on August 1st, 1834, commencing at 2 a. m., in an outbuilding occupied by Dr. Cooke, situated about 200 feet in rear of front line of premises of Lockwood Belden (later Comstock, Ferre & Co.), and consumed all of Mr. B.'s barns and seed houses,

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<sup>1</sup> On authority of the mother of Mr. Charles Williams, herself an eye witness of the disaster, and then about nine years old.

seven or eight in number; also, the houses and barns of Roswell Clapp, Dr. Cooke, Levi Goodrich and the shoeshop of O. Harrison. It was supposed to have originated from spontaneous combustion of laboratory material stored in the building occupied by Dr. Cooke. An engine from Hartford arrived in time to render some service; and soon after, this engine was secured for Wethersfield by a popular subscription of \$400.

Other fires (three or four in number) followed at a later date which caused the losses of barns, etc., of Dr. Tenney, James Smith, and others, with Mr. Crane's tavern. Finally a night patrol was organized, which resulted in the capture of the incendiaries.

FISH AND FISHERIES.—*Salmon and Shad.*—In the days of the earliest settlement along the Connecticut River, there seems to have been almost a superabundance of both of these kinds of fish—though they apparently were not greatly prized by the early settlers as articles of food; and certainly not as forming the basis of an important industry, as *fishing* has since become. In 1700, as we learn from Judd (*Hist. of Hadley*), they sold at Hartford at “less than a penny a pound.” In Wethersfield, they were so plentiful, that according to tradition, they were to be seen in piles, “like cords of wood,” on sale, on the corner lot later occupied by Palmer Southworth. And, at that time, here (as in other Connecticut River towns) it was considered as disreputable for any but “poor folks” to eat shad. It is said, also, that apprentices in binding themselves to their masters, frequently stipulated that salmon should not be served to them as food oftener than twice a week—a statement which (to the Editor's knowledge) has also been made concerning the farm laborers in Scotland, who were living near the salmon streams of that country.

But, just prior to the Revolution, the prejudice against this fish had died away, and fishing for them became a profitable industry. Both salmon and shad were caught in great numbers, and salted for home and foreign consumption. In Wethersfield something of a litigation arose in 1767, for the possession of the fishing place at “the Sands,” on the land of John Russell of Wethersfield on the W. side of the river—the creek bounding it on the west, the river east and the highway north. Benjamin, Abraham and Isaac Smith, Gershom Wheeler and David Fox, all of Glastonbury, coveted the exclusive franchise of a fishery at that place, and petitioned the Assembly for a grant thereof, alleging that they had kept the place clear of logs, roots, etc., since 1753, and they desired it for “seining and taking up of salmon, shad,” etc. The legislature, however, dismissed their petition, and required them



THE OLD CAPT. CHARLES CHURCHILL HOUSE.  
(Newington, Conn.)

The lower view presents the old mansion as it appeared in its latter days, after it began to go to decay. The upper view is Mr. George Dudley Seymour's Library Book plate, showing the fine Colonial front door, and, in the corner a perspective view of the House, in its palmy days.





to pay Mr. Russell his costs of defense." In October, 1778, Wait Goodrich and associates, of Glastonbury, secured the exclusive fishery of *sturgeon* in the Connecticut River for five years.

Next to salmon, the *shad* fisheries were important though that fish was not then held in as high esteem as it now is. Large quantities were salted both for home consumption and exportation, but salted cod and mackerel have, of later years, very generally superceded that of salted shad. In 1845, Wethersfield's exportation of the latter had been reduced to forty-five barrels. At the same date, the amount of salt used here in fish-packing (nearly all the fish being *alewives*—branded as "herring") was 500 bushels." The Connecticut River was originally especially suited to the habits of the salmon. Its numerous tributaries furnished abundant breeding places for them; and arriving in the spring, with the shad, they ascended the river, even as far as Bellows Falls. They sought only the coolest and clearest streams, where the current was the swiftest, and many falls which were too steep for the shad to pass, were overcome by the stronger salmon in order to reach their favorite breeding places. Many of the young fish returned each year to the sea, and having reached maturity made the long journey up the river again, to continue the work of propagating their species.

About 1700, fishing had begun to assume the proportions of an important and lucrative industry. The price of salmon, at Northampton, in 1775, had risen to two pence a pound, and within the next twenty years had more than doubled. Along the length of the river, as far even as Vermont, a larger number of seines were used every year—the salmon taken being fewer than the shad, but partly compensating in individual size for their lack in numbers—sometimes attaining a weight of 34 or 40 pounds; and it became more difficult to sell; and those who came each year to the fishing grounds to purchase their annual supply of shad, could obtain them only on condition of taking a certain number of salmon. By June, 1791, five and a half pounds of salted salmon were worth 2s. and 6 d., and in July, same year, 3½ pounds sold for 1s. 7d." We have quoted from a most interesting article on this subject, in the *Springfield Republican*, of April 7th, 1897, by Mr. BENJ. ADAMS, of Wethersfield, who has also furnished us with a number of valuable statistics relative to the "catches" of Wethersfield fisheries from this time to the present, but which our space does not permit of our printing.

But, just about the close of the eighteenth century salmon disappeared from the Connecticut with much suddenness—which was probably due to the erection, about 1795, of a dam, at South Hadley, eleven

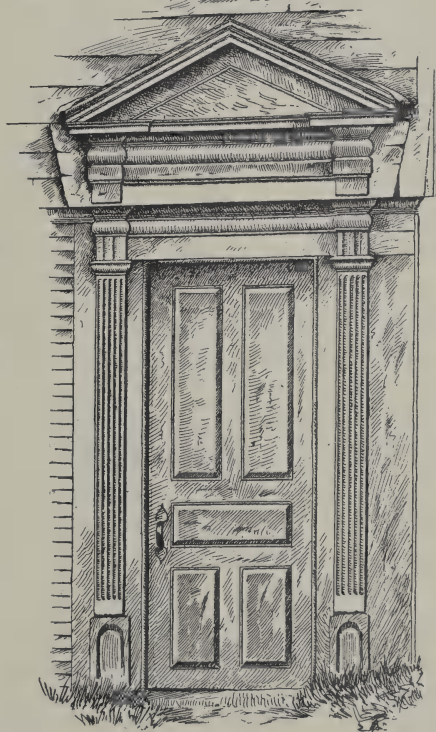
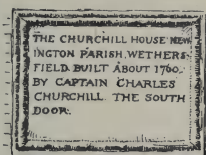
feet high, and subsequently (about 1798) of another dam, 16 feet high, from shore to shore, below the mouth of Miller's River—by the upper Docks and Canals Company. Before these insurmountable obstacles, the salmon, were obliged to turn back, and could no longer reach their breeding places; and after 1800 had quite disappeared from our waters. In later years an effort was made by the Fish Commissions of the four States touching the Connecticut River to restock the Connecticut River with these fish, but with only partial success; though in the season of 1882, two or three were taken by Wethersfield shad fishers.

*Fisheries in Wethersfield.*—Of these the most ancient is probably that now known as "*Bucks*," at "The Cove." The Cove has existed as such, about 200 years, and is noted for its "herring" (alewife) production (though, at times, many shad have been caught here). Hundreds of barrels of these alewives are packed and salted here, annually—and are known in the trade as herrings. The *Sampson Fish Place*, on the east side of the river, opposite the Old Wharf of Wethersfield was long a favorite place for fishermen. Other fisheries are on the southeast shore of the river, on "the Rocks" between the Cove and the river; on the east side of the river, near the present steamboat landing; on both sides opposite to the Great Meadow, and at *The Five Nations*, a noted shad fishery from ancient days, on the west side near Rocky Hill Landing; and again on the east side some distance below. Except at the Cove, most of the fish taken are shad, some of which are caught with gill-nets.

[OPINIONS OF WETHERSFIELD, BY DISTINGUISHED STRANGERS, TRAVELERS, ETC.—Native-born Wethersfieldians have always had a very high and positive opinion as to the exceeding beauty of their town and its surroundings, as well as of the general character of its citizens, for which they cannot be blamed since it has been frequently and amply justified by the comments of many American, as well as foreign travelers and visitors, who have given recorded expression to their sentiments concerning these points. These quotations also serve to afford us somewhat of a progressive view of its growth.

First, we offer our readers the humorous description of the town and its inhabitants, given by the Rev. SAMUEL PETERS:

"Weathersfield is four miles from Hartford, and more compact than any town in the Colony. The Meeting-house is of brick, with a steeple, bell and clock. The inhabitants say it is much larger than Solomon's Temple. The Township is ten miles square, parishes four. The people are more gay than polite and more superstitious than religious.



THE SOUTH DOORWAY of the Churchill House; and Antique Lamp found in the house.

*By Courtesy of Geo. Dudley Seymour, Esq.*





This town raises more onions than are consumed in all New England. It is a rule with parents to buy annually a silk gown for each daughter above seven years old, until she is married. The young beauty is obliged, in return, to weed a patch of onions with her own hands, which she performs in the cool of the morning before she dresses for breakfast. This laudable and healthy custom is ridiculed by the ladies in other towns, who idle away their mornings in bed, or in gathering the pink, or catching the butterfly to ornament their toilets, while the gentlemen, far and near, forget not the Wethersfield ladies' silken industry."<sup>1</sup>

President JOHN ADAMS visited Wethersfield in June, 1771, and again in August, 1774.<sup>2</sup> On the former visit, he says:

"At eleven o'clock arrived at Wright's<sup>3</sup> in Wethersfield. \* \* \* Here is the finest ride in America, I believe; nothing can exceed the beauty and fertility of the country. The lands upon the river, the flat lowlands, are loaded with rich, noble crops of grass and grain and corn."

On his second visit he was the guest of Mr. Silas Deane, where he was "most cordially and genteelly entertained with punch, wine and coffee," and by whom he was informed that 30,000 bushels of flax seed were sent to New York, yearly, in exchange for salt. He says, also, "We went up the steeple of Wethersfield Meeting House, from whence is the most grand and beautiful prospect in the world, at least, that I ever saw."

MONS. BRISSOT DE WARVILLE, a traveled Frenchman, also passed through Wethersfield in 1788, and leaves this record of his impressions of the town:<sup>4</sup>

"On quitting Härtford you enter Wethersfield, a town not less elegant, very long, consisting of houses well built. They tell me it gave birth to the famous Silas Deane, one of the first promoters of the American Revolution; from a schoolmaster in this town elevated to the rank of an Envoy from Congress to Europe; he has since been accused of betraying this glorious cause. Is the accusation true? It is difficult to decide. But he has been a long time miserable in London; and it is in favour of the goodness of heart of the Americans to recount that his best friends and benefactors are still among the ancient American Whigs.

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Samuel Peters' *General History of Conn.*, London, 1781; p. 138, of Am. reprint of 1877.

<sup>2</sup> *Life and Works of John Adams*, II, pp. 272, 341.

<sup>3</sup> Elijah Wright's—ment. on Town Rec. as early as 1767.—*H. R. S.* Silas Deane in that yr. employed him to make 130 bbls. of cider.

<sup>4</sup> *New Travels in the United States of America*, performed in 1788, By J. P. Brissot de Warville, Translated from the French, London, 1792, p. 133.

"Wethersfield is remarkable for its vast fields uniformly covered with onions of which great quantities are exported to the West Indies. It is likewise remarkable for its elegant meeting-house, or church. On Sunday it is said to offer an enchanting spectacle by the number of young and handsome persons assembled there, and by the agreeable music with which they intermingle the divine service."

President MONROE, also, contributes his mite to the general symposium of praise of Wethersfield.<sup>1</sup> His biographer says:

"In the afternoon (23 June, 1817), leaving Middletown, the President was accompanied on his way to Hartford, for three or four miles, by a large number of citizens, many of whom, together with a Troop of Horse, escorted him as far as Wethersfield (twelve miles from that place), where they were met by the inhabitants and military of that town, and of Hartford, who conducted him to that city in very handsome style. \* \* \* \* \* Upon his arrival at Wethersfield they found a large collection of citizens ready to greet his arrival. But their acclamations could not drive from his recollection his early Congressional friend, the Hon. Stephen Mix Mitchell, a resident there, who had recently retired from the office of Chief Justice of Connecticut. He paid him a visit, and although the frost of age was visible upon their honored heads, their hearts warmed with fervor upon their meeting after a long absence. The interview was short, but delightful.

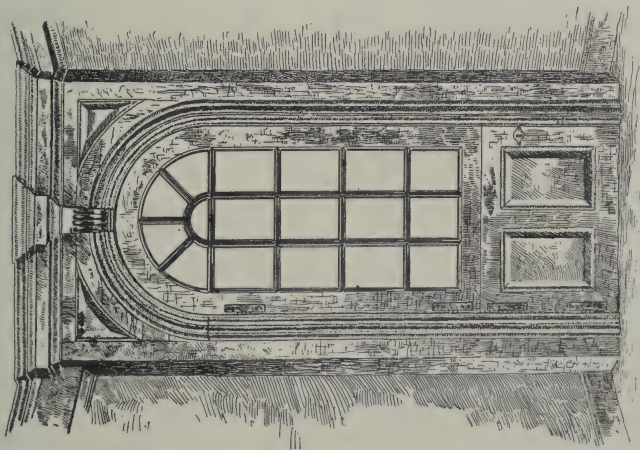
"On Monday (the 23d) from previous arrangement the first company of the Governor's Horse Guards, under the command of Major Buck, repaired to Wethersfield to receive the President. A large concourse of citizens, from this and the neighboring towns, also assembled and escorted the President to the South Green in this city."

Two years later than this chronicle, *Pease & Niles' Gazetteer of Conn. & R. I.*, pp. 89-90, gives the following information about the town:

"Wethersfield is about six miles square, containing 23,000 acres. This is an excellent township of land, having an undulating surface and exhibiting a beautiful diversity of hill and dale. The soil is generally a rich gravelly and sandy loam, but in the western part of the town, argillaceous loam prevails, and some small sections in the centre may be considered as a garden mould. It is well adapted to grass and grain and particularly to esculent roots. The tract of alluvial upon Connecticut river is extensive and beautiful, and very productive. The clay of Hartford does not extend to Wethersfield, but on the contrary there

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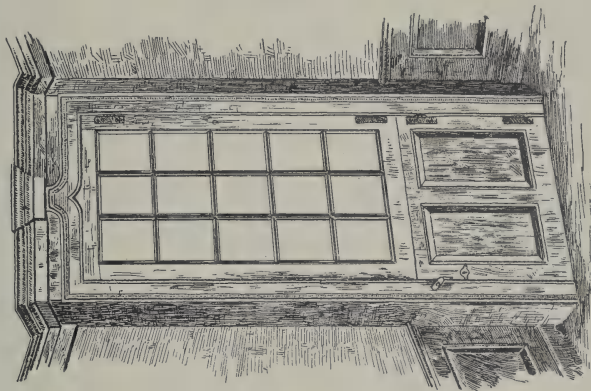
<sup>1</sup> *Tour of James Monroe* \* \* \* \* in the year 1817, By S. P. Waldo, p. 94.



A BEAUFET IN THE WAINSCOTED PARLOR.

IN THE CAPT. CHARLES CHURCHILL HOUSE, NEWINGTON.

*By Courtesy of Geo. W. Seymour, Esq.*



A CORNER CUPBOARD.





are some small sections of silicious sand. Among other agricultural interests in the town, the cultivation of onions has long held a conspicuous rank. This is an important agricultural pursuit, although it occupies but a small portion of land, and the service is principally performed by females. Wethersfield onions have long been justly celebrated and are exported to the Southern States and the West Indies for a market. The onions when prepared for market, are sorted and arranged into Ropes or Bunches consisting of a number strung together, of which it has been estimated, that there are from a million to a million and a half raised annually, and sent abroad. This is the only town in the state which makes a business of the cultivation of this excellent root. It is peculiarly novel and interesting on passing through the town in the month of June to behold in every direction the extensive fields of onions. Whilst in a luxurious state for vegetation the growing vegetable exhales its strong savour. The atmosphere becomes impregnated and the luscious qualities of the onion are wafted far and wide upon every passing breeze.

"The business of navigation has received considerable attention in this town, and it possesses considerable tonnage. Ship-building also has frequently been carried on, but the commercial and maritime interests of the town have not increased for some years past.

"The population of Wethersfield in 1810, was 3,931 and there are now 500 electors, 300 militia, and about 600 dwelling houses. There are 5 Distilleries, 4 Tanneries, 3 Grain Mills, 2 Saw-Mills, 3 Fulling Mills, 2 Carding Machines, 15 Mercantile stores and one Rope-walk. The list of the town in 1817 was \$67,627."

*Pease & Niles*, (p. 75), under the head of Glastonbury also, say:

"In the eastern part of the town there is a pond of about a mile in circumference called 'Diamond pond,' from the circumstance of there being small pebbles or stones around its margin having peculiar brilliancy. Near the centre of the town there is a mineral spring, which, though it has acquired no celebrity abroad, has been thought by men of science, who have examined it to possess valuable medical qualities; and for more than one hundred years has been known in the vicinity by the name of the 'Pool at Nipsuck.'"

The learned and eminent Pres. DWIGHT of Yale College, in 1823, gives the following lengthy and critical statement concerning Wethersfield, as one of the principal towns of New England which attracted his attention on an extensive tour through the Eastern States:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Dwight's Travels in New England and New York*, 1823, I, 192.

“Wethersfield lies on the Connecticut River, 11 miles No. of Middletown and 4 So. of Hartford. The soil is probably not inferior to that of any township in the State. The intervals, which are large, are of the richest quality, and the uplands, when well cultivated, are very productive. The nature and value of intervals I shall have occasion to describe hereafter. It will be sufficient to observe here, that they are lands formed by alluvian, and are usually of the highest fertility. At the same time, they are ordinarily fashioned with a degree of neatness and elegance, which is unrivalled. This township contains three parishes, *Stepney*, already mentioned, in the South; *Newington*, on the Northwest, and *Wethersfield* proper, on the Northwest. The town of Wethersfield is chiefly built in the N. E. part of the parish, bordering upon the River. Of the three principal streets, two run from North to South, parallel with the general course of the River, and the third from Southeast to Northwest, along the banks of a large Cove formed in the N. E. quarter of the township. The site of the Town, and the prospects of the surrounding country, are very pleasant. The houses, taken together, are neither so well built, nor so well repaired, as those of their neighbors. Forty years since they appeared better than those of any town in the State. From some reason, or other, imperfectly known to me, Wethersfield has not kept pace with the general improvement of the country. Many of the houses are, however, good, and several very good. The inhabitants have, for many years, cultivated onions as an article of commerce. Many parts of the American coast and the West Indian Islands, furnished a market for this commodity, and the fertility of the soil insured regularly a rich crop. While the market lasted, this was the most profitable article of culture known in the country. Ninety perches of land have, in a single year, yielded about \$200. It was not to be expected that a source of so much profit would be unobserved by their countrymen. Various rivals accordingly attempted to gain a share of these advantages; the market became overstocked and the business dwindled in value. It is, however, still a source of profit.

“The regular production of a considerable staple production is, I suspect, attended with several disadvantages to those by whom it is produced. It becomes an object of particular attention to the merchant, and will be more exposed to systematized schemes of over-reaching, than a mass of mixed and various produce. The farmer, who employs himself in the cultivation of onions, will, through the cold season, have neither cattle to feed nor grain to thresh. During this period he will scarcely fail of being idle a considerable part of his time, and of be-



*Broadbent-pinait.*

THE OLD GRISWOLD HOUSE (GRISWOLDVILLE).

This photo. from a drawing made by Samuel Broadbent, dec'd, was furnished by the late Commander Edward Hooker, U. S. N.





taking himself to unprofitable company-keeping, or other resorts, which are both expensive and mischievous."

Then, as if to soften the implication of this last remark, the President goes on to say:

"The inhabitants of Wethersfield are distinguished for their attachment to order and government. The gentlemen and ladies are highly distinguished for the possession of those qualities which especially furnish the pleasure of refined society."

He then narrates the story of the Beadle Murders (see p. —, this Vol.), and gives the following statistics, viz.: Wethersfield, in 1756, had 2,374 white inhabitants, and 109 blacks; in 1774, 3,347 whites and 142 blacks; in 1800, although a considerable part of the town had been annexed to Berlin, 4,105 inhabitants, of whom 95 were blacks; and in 1810, 3,961 inhabitants.

From all this distinguished testimony which we have quoted, it is to be seen that, despite time's changes, and the passing of many generations, Wethersfield still retains the four distinctive features with which these various commentators have credited her, viz.: (1) the exceeding *loveliness of her site and surroundings*; (2) the glory of *her onion beds*; (3) the acknowledged *superior* educational eminence and *refinement of her society*; and (4) the architectural beauty of *her Meeting-House*, which, as the Rev. Peters said, a hundred years ago, was considered by her people, as "much larger than Solomon's Temple!", and which in later years has been renovated with such superior architectural taste, as to bid fair to retain its supremacy over that ancient fane, for another hundred years to come.—*H. R. S.*]

[OLD HOUSES AND OLD TAVERNS.—The dwellings erected by the first settlers of Pyquaug, undoubtedly were mere *huts*, or "shacks," differing but little—excepting being a trifle more substantially built—from the Indian wigwams which the white man found on their first coming here.<sup>1</sup> The *log-house* similar to that of the Western emigrant, of a later period, soon followed, and these, in turn—as the exigencies and dangers of a first settlement were surmounted and peace and stability assured—were succeeded by a better class of houses—two stories high, low

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<sup>1</sup> Probably the *very first* shelter which some of the Wethersfield settlers occupied, may have been what are called in old deeds and records, "cellars"; i. e. an excavation made in the face of a bank or hill, and roofed, or covered with boughs or pieces of the bark of trees, or with planks—such refuges as are even now known in our extreme Western settlements as "dug-outs." The first settlers of Windsor, had such accommodations on Sandy-Bank—See Stiles history of that town.

between joints, containing two large square rooms, above and below, with a chimney in the centre and steep roofs. Occasionally, the social standing, or the financial ability of the owner was emphasized by the addition of a porch to the front door, eight or ten feet square, of the same height as the main building. On the lower floor, this porch was either enclosed, as a sort of vestibule, or left open and supported on pillars; its upper portion forming an additional room on the second floor. This class of building, we think, came into use not much earlier than 1675 or '90; by which time, also, a modification of this style of house had begun to appear, in which the need of more room for the growing family was met by the *scant*, or *lean-to*, added to the rear of the building, leaning towards the upright part of the latter, and continuing the rear roof down to the height of the first story. This afforded a kitchen, a buttery and another bedroom; and, with the addition of a chimney, and a fireplace in the kitchen, became an established *order* of New England domestic architecture. It is not easy, however, to differentiate clearly the various "styles" or *orders* which have prevailed in the past, according to any fixed periods of time. They always have, and will *lap over*, somewhat. Of this last described kind of house, the old *Andrus* house, in Newington, the old *Griswold* house in Wethersfield, and the old *Jonathan Boardman* house in Rocky Hill, were good examples.

The next form of house, to which we come in our synopsis of these orders, seems to have been that of the so-called *upright* houses two stories high (and somewhat higher between joints) with a capacious garret in the peak of the roof, which, perhaps, was not quite so steep as its predecessors. These houses on the ground floor were sometimes divided by a broad hall, from front to rear, from the rear end of which rose the stairway to the floor above; and from which on either side opened the doors of the best-room, or "Parlor" and the Dining Room. Upstairs, or second floor, was a similar, though not quite so wide, hall, from which opened two large square bedrooms. The *Boardman house*, at S. W. end of Broad Street, Wethersfield (1719-1857) built for Cornet Joseph, by his father Samuel, was a fair example of this kind of house; as was also the *Standish house* in Wethersfield. In some of these houses, however, the front door opened merely into a little square hall, or vestibule, which disclosed the doors of two large rooms on either side and a winding and somewhat steep staircase leading up to the second story. Of this, we have an instance in the cut of the *Silas Deane house*. Houses of this style and period (about 1750-1780) generally possessed the dignity of two chimneys, and the form of the



THE OLD BOARDMAN CHEST, 1680-1700.

*In possession of William F. J. Boardman, Hartford, Conn.*





roof was sometimes that known as *gambrel*—*i. e.*, with a “hip”—(angle, or rise) between the eaves and the roof-tree, both on the front and rear of the house, as seen in the *Webb* and the *Robbins* mansions, and also (markedly so) in the picture of the *Old Fish House*—if it be not desecration to couple the latter with the two former as illustrations of this peculiar style of roof. Many houses of this period also had the peculiarity of a long heavy timber passing through the centre of many of the rooms, overhead. This timber, usually 12 inches square, was generally covered with nicely planed boards, where it projected below the level of the lath and plaster of the ceiling; though in some instances it was left uncovered, showing the marks of the adze with which it had been squared.—*H. R. S.*]

Wethersfield has reason to feel proud of some of these old Colonial dwellings yet standing in her streets, sound of timber, and full of hallowed recollections of the olden times and the noble men and women who have lived in them, or the distinguished personages who have enjoyed their hospitality. Of such, pre-eminently, is the *WEBB* House, on the West side of Main Street, just below the terminus of the horse railroad. This fine old historic building was erected by Mr. Joseph Webb, about or prior to 1753. He died in 1761, aged 35 years, and leaving two sons, viz.: Joseph, aged 12 and Samuel Blatchley (afterwards Col. and Brevet Brig-Gen. in the Continental Army), aged 8 years. Joseph, Jr., became a prominent citizen and merchant in Wethersfield and married in 1774, Abigail (daughter of Col. John) Chester, and she was the hostess who entertained Washington during his few days stay in the town in 1780. The social standing, ample means and generous nature of the Webbs, won for their residence, during the Revolutionary period, the widely recognized title of “Hospitality Hall;” but its special glory is in having been honored by the presence of Washington and his military and official friends on several occasions of importance to the liberties of America, as has been fully told in our chapter on the War of the Revolution. The bedroom occupied by the illustrious guest is the N. E. chamber of the second story, and its furniture, even to the paper on the walls, has been kept intact until the present time. In the parlor below this chamber was held the celebrated conference of 1780, with Count Rochambeau, Gov. Trumbull, Col. Wadsworth and others. The house, now owned and occupied by Dr. Frank N. Welles, is in a fine state of preservation, and has received no external changes, or additions, except that of a porch to the front door, and a repainting more in consonance with modern taste than its original color of red.

Next south of the Webb house is the SILAS DEANE house, now occupied by E. Hart Fenn, Esq. In August, 1765, Deane (afterwards Special Envoy and Commissioner, with Benjamin Franklin, to the Court of France to secure the aid of that nation) bought from Dea. John Stillman two and three-fourths acres of land, on which he builded this house. Deane afterwards failed, and in January, 1789, one McEwen of New York, a creditor, sold to Stephen (son of Col. John) Chester, one-fourth of an acre "with the house built by Silas Deane;" and Chester, in 1793, bought the remainder of the property from Deane's administrator. It was this Deane-Chester-Fenn house which seems to have sheltered Washington and his military staff, when on his way, June 30, 1775, to Cambridge, to take command of the army. On this occasion, Mr. Deane, writing June 22d, to his wife at Wethersfield, from Philadelphia, where he was attending the Continental Congress, says:

"This will be handed you by His Excellency General Washington, in company with Gen. Lee and retinue. Should they lodge over night in Wethersfield, you will accommodate their horses, servants, etc., in the best manner, at the taverns, and their retinue will likely go to Hartford."

Mrs. Deane, to whom this letter of introduction was addressed, was Elizabeth (daughter of Col. Gurdon) Staltonstall, and Deane's second wife, a lady fully competent, both by birth and accomplishments, to extend the honors of her husband's house to these distinguished guests.

It is a well substantiated tradition of the "Chester Place," as it is now called, that in its parlor, the General was measured for a pair of boots, by the village shoemaker. Oh fortunate Crispin, in-being thus privileged; yet most unfortunate in that thy name has not been handed down to posterity!

[Next south of the "Chester Place" is an almost equally old house, of the same type, the gambrel roof of which has been remodelled to a straight incline. This is the *Robertson* house, once occupied by the late Dr. Ashbel Robertson, who purchased it, about 1816, from Dr. Barwick Bruce, from whom its ownership can be traced back to Silas Deane, 1769, and to John Stillman, who bought it, in 1737, from Jonathan Goodrich, and this date *may* indicate the age of the building. Dr. Robertson, for many years, carried on a mechantile business, sold wines and liquors (under a license) and practiced medicine. His store, with roof cut down and a brick front added, is now occupied by Comstock, Ferre & Co., as a seed warehouse, a little further up the same street. The mansion is now occupied by Mr. Austin Robertson, a son of the old



THE OLD GOODRICH WARDROBE OR PRESS, about 1665.

FROM THE HOUSE BUILT BY CAPTAIN ELIZUR GOODRICH (ABOUT 1760), IN WETHERSFIELD, CONN.

*In possession of William F. J. Boardman.*



doctor, and one who has been a very efficient help in the compiling of this volume.

The Webb, Deane and Robertson houses all stand upon property originally belonging to the Wolcott Family, of which Capt. Samuel Wolcott, grandson of the Hon. Henry, of Windsor, was the first representative in Wethersfield. The Robertson property south of the R. dwelling house belonged, prior to 1825, to the Rev. John Marsh, who became possessed of it, in 1782. The MARSH house is still standing, in a good state of preservation, as also is the STANDISH house, a fine and well kept relic of earlier days.

The CHESTER house was a large mansion, on the West side of Broad Street, in the "Chester Lot," as it is still called. It was the house next south of the old *Crane Tavern*, of which elsewhere, we give a picture; and was the home of the Revolutionary Chesters.

On the east side of Broad Street is *another* CHESTER homestead, dating back, perhaps, to 1730. It is now occupied by Mr. W. H. Skaats and stands nearly upon the site of the *original Leonard Chester* homestead, and was, undoubtedly the home of the earlier generations of Chester, though not generally known at the present day, as being a Chester house. Many years ago one-half the building was removed to another location, and became the Adams' house.

The WILLIAMS house, a large building at the upper end of Broad Street, built on land sold from the street, by vote of the Town, was erected by Sheriff Ezekiel Williams; became later, the home of Parson Tenney and is not owned and occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Savage.

The "Squire JOHN" WILLIAMS home, on the east side of High Street, next north of the Congregational church is the home of Mrs. W. W. Andrews and her sister, Mrs. Mary D. McLean, to whom our readers are indebted for much of the interest of this history.

On Wolcott Hill, about a mile W. from the centre of the village is a large, white, 2-story house, and which some have supposed was erected by Capt. Samuel Wolcott, who came hither from Windsor and settled in 1656, and d. in 1695, and whose table-monument in the Wethersfield old cemetery bears upon its face the family arms, elaborately engraved, as portrayed in the cut here given. But, we think its builder, more probably, was his son Maj. Samuel, who died in 1734, or his grandson Capt. Samuel. At all events, we are inclined to place its erection at about the same time as that of the Webb house. It is most substantially built throughout, and its walls all lined with large thin bricks—one of which was lately found bearing the name "Samuel," evidently impressed upon it before being baked. Mrs. J. W. Griswold, a daugh-

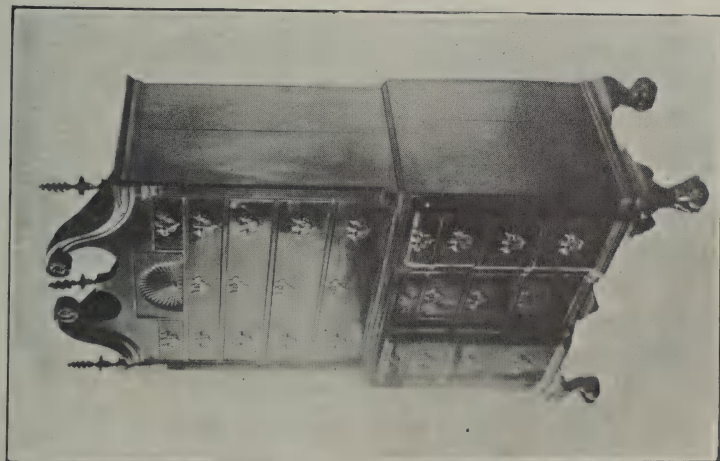


ter of the house, informs us that it was purchased from the Chauncey Wolcott estate, in 1857, and presented to the wife of Dea. John Welles, by her grandmother Welles; and was occupied by Dea. Welles' family until his death in 1898. It is now owned by Mr. Howard P. Bourne. A peculiar feature of interest is the Wolcott arms painted (evidently a long time ago, as its artistic style betrays) on the wall, over the mantel of the north parlor. This painting, of which we here give a photogravure, was some few years ago, retouched by a local painter, and the family motto introduced into the scroll below the shield.—*H. R. S.*]

About ten rods south of the Robertson house, there stood in Revolutionary times, a tavern (property later owned and occupied by the father of Hon. Silas W. Robbins) in the old barn of which tradition used to say that Gen. Washington's horse was stabled, on the occasion of the General's visit to Wethersfield; and some 50 rods up Main Street stood the old STILLMAN TAVERN, which may possibly have been the tavern, in which, in 1765, Mr. Ingersoll, the obnoxious Stamp-Master, succumbed to the will of the people. See p. —, *ante*.

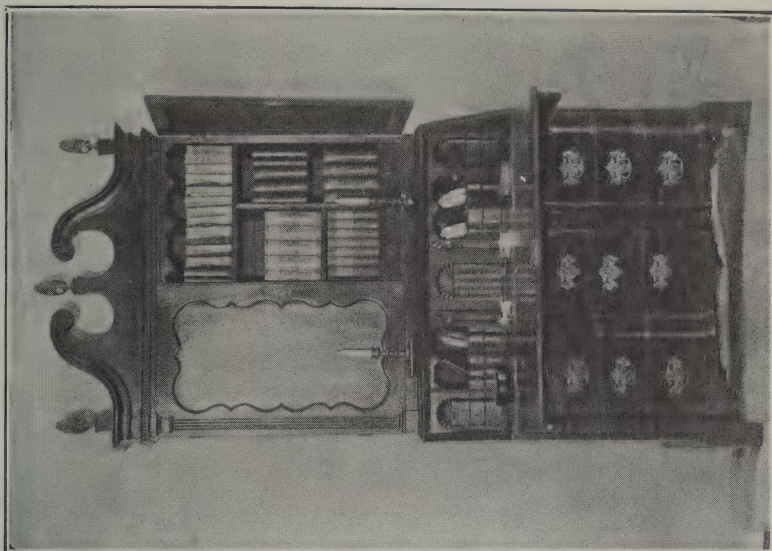
[The Town of *Newington* held two very old and interesting dwellings—the ANDRUS and the CHURCHILL houses. The former, near the old David Lowry place, and a few rods S. of the meeting house, was built in 1684, by Dea. Joseph (son of John) Andrus, who came from Farmington and erected a sawmill, at the pond, now known as the Centre Mill-pond. In the early days of Indian warfare it was stockaded and used as a fort, to which the people could fly in times of danger. It remained in the Andrus family until the death of the last of the name, Amos, in 1826, who devised his property to Newington Church, from which it was purchased by Gen. Martin Kellogg, grandfather of Mrs. H. M. Robbins, who was its owner, at the time of its destruction by fire in December, 1897.

The CHURCHILL HOUSE, in its day a fine example of good Colonial architecture, was erected by Capt. Charles Churchill, the son of Ensign Samuel, and great grandson of Josiah Churchill, the first of the name in Newington. He was born in 1723, a man of means, of marked ability in local, public and military affairs; married Lydia Belden of Newington; was licensed as a "tavener" by the County Court in June, 1747; served as a lieutenant in Capt. Hezekiah Welles' Co., in Gen. Wolcott's Brig. of State Troops before Boston, from January to March, 1776, and by January, 1779, was Captain in the 2d Regiment of the 1st Militia Brigade in which his company rendered some service; in 1786, he was chosen a Deacon in the Newington Church, and died in



AN ANCIENT HIGH BOY.

*By Courtesy of Miss E. E. Dana.*



THE DOCTOR'S BOOKCASE.

*FURNITURE IN THE DR. MARSH HOUSE.*



October, 1802. About 1754, he erected the fine mansion represented in the accompanying illustration, and which, even in its present ruined state, fully indicates its claim to having been one of the finest dwellings of its day in the Colony of Connecticut.<sup>1</sup> It was a large, two story, gambrel-roofed structure; most substantially built, and in its architectural details (especially the mouldings of its doors and windows) much more ornate than most dwellings of its class. Besides seven open fireplaces, the house contained *four great ovens*, one of which is said to have been large enough to roast an entire ox; and the tradition is preserved that, on one occasion, when Washington and Lafayette were entertained here, *all* these four ovens were in full blast. One of the rooms of the house is said to have been papered with the depreciated Continental currency which Capt. Churchill had received in payment for supplies furnished to the army.—*H. R. S.*]

From Dr. R. W. Griswold's notes, we learn of a building in *Rocky Hill*, called "THE LONG TAVERN," and a noted tavern-stand for many years ago. He describes it as being between the Old Sail Loft and Wait Williams' store, and near the present R. R. station and that its barn and horse-shed backed up within a few feet of the Old Sail Loft building, leaving only a small alleyway between, which marked the division between the Josiah Grimes' property and the Township Yard Reservation. It was originally owned by Grimes, and, for many years, was kept by the widow Abigail Robbins, a daughter of Josiah Grimes and third wife of Mr. Frederick Robbins. It was built partly of brick and partly of stone, and at different periods. The north half was esteemed the oldest portion and as having been built about 1754, by Oliver Pomeroy; but we think the south portion remaining to later days and known as "the Long House" or Tavern, was probably his addition to a part previously existing. It has been gone for more than half a century, and like many of the taverns of that day, had a nine-pin alley attached to it. Dr. G. also notes that in about what was the middle front chamber of the older half of the house was a fireplace, quite unique in character—being oval in form from the hearth up, the back curved in under in a cavernous shape, quite different from the usual form of the old fireplaces—and which would, in these days, have been considered "quite a study for an artist."

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<sup>1</sup> For this, and the other illustrations showing the details of its construction, we are indebted to GEO. DUDLEY SEYMOUR, Esq., of New Haven, a descendant of the family. Especially interesting is the photo of Mr. Seymour's book-plate, giving a sketch of the front door of the old mansion, together with (in the corner of the plate) a perspective view of the house itself.

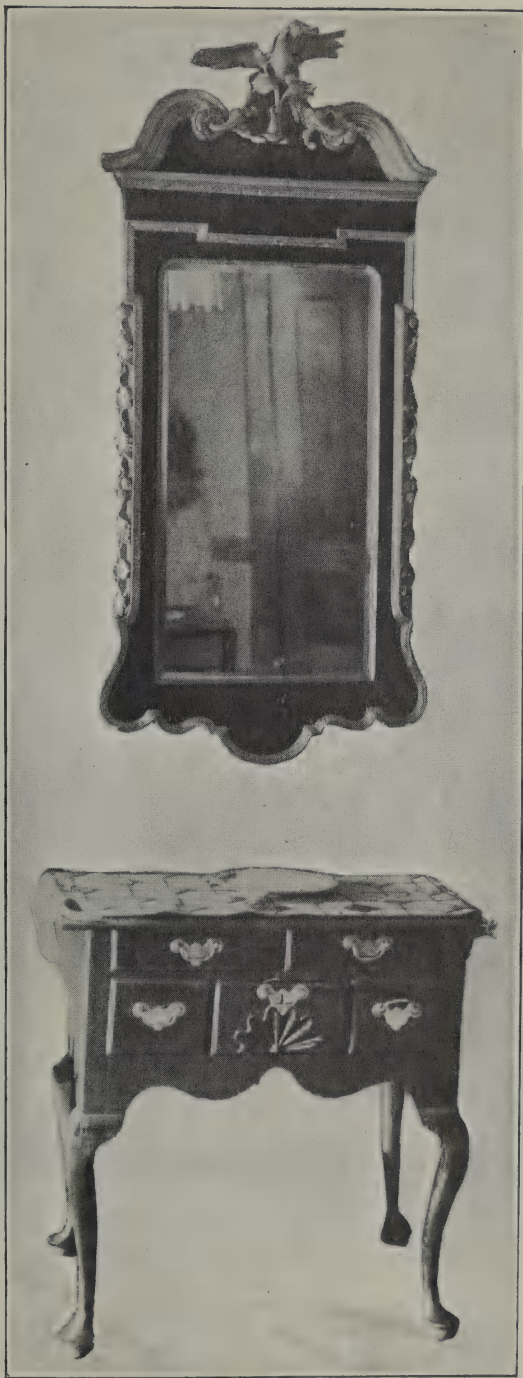
About the same time, one Polly Dickinson kept a tavern of considerable repute at Rocky Hill, in her house S. E. cor. of Ferry Street, N. of the Roderick Grimes place; and on the authority of the late Charles Williams, it is said that "Aunt Polly could brew a mug of flip that few, even in those days, could refuse." Mr. Williams adds, "I am reminded that poor indeed was the family that did not have its keg, or large jug of beer in the cellar, for winter flip. In private houses the fire-end of the andiron was used to heat the flip, instead of the regular flip-iron."

Mr. Williams also says: "The large house formerly standing on the E. side of the highway and N. of the Burying-ground, probably one of the earliest buildings in the town of Rocky Hill, and later known as "the Granny Griswold place" was, for sometime, kept as a public house. I never heard of it as a tavern—but, it was in old time parlance, "THE VILLAGE INN." Its large room was often used, in winter, for dancing. Old people, when I was a boy, used to relate how in their youth, they met in this room, for such enjoyment; but when the old clock struck 9 p. m., the proprietor would appear, with "Boys and girls! it is nine o'clock—time you were home!" Then they would go downstairs and pay the bill—generally about ten shillings, which was not a high price, considering that paper money was then worth but ten cents on the dollar, and twenty-five cents covered all expenses. They danced to the scraping of a fiddle, but no refreshments were served to them.

*The Shipman Hotel, Rocky Hill.*—At what time this house first became a tavern, is unknown. The main (south) building was erected by Capt. Wait Robbins in the latter part of the 18th century, and a Samuel Bull kept there about (and before) 1800; then Simon Williams, who built the hall in front; then a Mr. Foster; then, about 1818, Mr. Samuel Dimock; followed by Benjamin Robbins, Burrage Meriam, Joel W. Smith (15 years), Isaac Bell, Robert Archibald, James Robbins, 1834-37, and Samuel Shipman until his death, about 1875. It had a nine-pin alley, and during Mr. Shipman's time, the house became quite a famous resort for parties from Hartford, both in summer and winter, in which latter season, the dance hall drew many sleighing parties. Mrs. Shipman had the reputation of being a splendid cook, especially of Connecticut River shad in its season; the customers were generally of the better class—prices rather high, and it was the "high-bucks" of the day who mostly resorted there. The house was closed after Mr. Shipman's death.

Between 1857-8, Joel T. Green, who married Catharine (daughter of Wm. L.) Webb, rebuilt the large gambrel-roofed house, then (and





ANCIENT MIRROR AND LOW BOY, in the Rev.  
Dr. Marsh House.





THE DOCTOR'S ARM CHAIR.



THE DOCTOR'S DESK.

FURNITURE IN REV. DR. MARSH'S HOUSE.

*By Courtesy of Miss E. E. Dana.*



earlier) known as the William Griswold place, where Mr. Blinn now resides, and opened it as the *Rocky Hill Hotel*, kept it four or five years and sold out to Lyman Dickinson, who died soon, and for a short time it was kept by James Flower; then by a Mr. Thorp, then by Geo. W. Ryer, who after some twelve or fifteen years closed it and bought the Geo. R. Chamber's house opposite the North School House, where he, for many years, kept the *Hotel de Ryer*.

In Griswoldville, down to within some 30 years ago, there stood an old *Griswold dwelling*, of a very fine type, a picture of which we give here, from a drawing made by the late Samuel Broadbent, Jr. For this engraving we are indebted to the late Commander Edward Hooker, U. S. N. (retired), of Brooklyn, N. Y., who like Mr. Broadbent and Judge Adams was a descendant of this Griswold family. Of this dwelling, demolished in 1875, Judge Adams says: "The land on which the house stood is supposed to have been that sold by Capt. Robert Welles (grandson of Gov. Thos. Welles, to Jacob Griswold (son of Michael, the Settler), in June, 1703. It is believed that he built the house about 1712. But the Town of Wethersfield, in 1674, had given the said Michael, 16 acres of land "at Two-Stone Brook" (now Griswoldville); which, by his will, dated September 22, 1684, he gave to his son the said Jacob. The latter died in 1736, giving his "home lot" to his sons Josiah and Ephraim. Whether it was Josiah or Ephraim who occupied the house, is not certainly known; but it seems to have been built by their father Jacob; and its ownership and occupancy descended to Ozias Griswold, son of the said Josiah. The latter, in 1728, bought from his brother Lieut. Ebenezer, a tract of  $21\frac{1}{2}$  acres, with the "new dwelling house thereon." This, I suppose to have been the "Maj. Josiah Griswold house" (later the Broadbent house), demolished in 1875. Lieut. Ebenezer was born in 1702, and *his* house was by all indications, built by Jacob Griswold, his father, and given to him. Jacob's will indicates this.

"This house descended to Thomas Griswold, son of the said Ozias, from the said Thomas to his son Franklin W. Griswold, whose heirs now own the land on which it stood. So that, the *house* was always in the Griswold family, and the land was originally either that of Michael (the first individual owner thereof) or of his son Jacob, as early as 1703, and the first settler at "Two-Stone." So wrote Judge Adams' mother, who was a daughter of this Thomas Griswold and born and reared in this house.

[But, by far the most conspicuous of Rocky Hill's old houses, was the ROBBINS HOUSE, built, in 1767, by Esquire John Robbins, the



wealthiest and most influential man of his family, and of Stepney parish. Built of brick, two stories and an attic in height, with three chimneys, and with solid foundations of dressed stone, and with a kitchen wing; it has a gambrel roof, with dormer windows, and a circular window in each gable above the attic windows—and, altogether, in style, material and construction was, in its day, esteemed as about the finest house in the Colony, as it is to-day, one of the best preserved. It was, at one time, used as a tavern; and the family of Mr. Walter Robbins, its present occupants, still preserve Esquire Robbins' old tavern sign, bearing a painting supposed to represent the Duke of Cambridge on horseback. This old sign, weather-worn and scarred by the alternating rains and sunshine of many years, is perforated by several bullet holes—which, as we have no record of any British invasion of this region, may be supposed to be the result of some jollification of loyal American youth—perhaps at one of the earlier Fourth of July celebrations of the young Republic. The engraving of this house which we here present as a frontispiece to this volume, is furnished by the courtesy of Mr. PHILEMON W. ROBBINS of Hartford.

The style of *furniture* contained in some of these old Wethersfield houses, is illustrated by the pictures herewith given of an ancient *Boardman chest*, and *Goodrich press*, furnished us by courtesy of Mr. Wm. F. J. Boardman of Hartford; and by the engravings of the Rev. JOHN MARSH *furniture*, contributed by Miss ELIZABETH E. DANA, of Cambridge, Mass., and her cousin Miss SUSAN E. DAGGETT, of New Haven, Ct.—*H. R. S.*]

THE OLD ELM.—In appropriate connection with the subject of the Old Houses of Wethersfield, we present the following measurements (taken in 1883) of the OLD WETHERSFIELD ELM, a landmark dear to the heart of every native of the ancient town. This noble tree, supposed to be the largest, and perhaps the oldest of its kind, in the state, stands on the east side of Broad Street Green, in front of the home-lot owned, in 1646, by Samuel Boardman, the Settler; and overshadows the residence of the late James Smith.

Its supposed *age* is 185 years.

Its circumference, at 39 inches from the ground (line resting on ridges) is 22 feet, 5 inches.

Its circumference, at same height from the ground (but with the line following the depressions of the trunk), is 26 feet, 3 inches.

Its circumference, where it enters the ground, is 55 feet, 6 inches.



THE GREAT ELM IN FOLIAGE.



THE GREAT ELM TREE IN WETHERSFIELD,  
ON THE EAST SIDE OF BROAD STREET, AND IN FRONT OF THE HOME-LOT OWNED IN 1646 BY  
SAMUEL BOREMAN, THE FIRST BOARDMAN SETTLER.



There are 6 large branches—the highest starting from the trunk, at about 10 feet from the ground.

Circumference of the south branch, 16 feet, 8 inches.

Circumference of the east branch, 11 feet, 6 inches.

Circumference of the North branch, 11 feet.

Circumference of the northwest branch, 10 feet, 3 inches.

Circumference of the west branch, 8 feet, 7 inches.

*Diameter* spread of branches, north and south, 150 feet.

*Diameter* spread of branches, east and west, 152 feet.

*Circumference* spread of branches, 429 feet.

Total height, about 120 feet.

At 25 feet from ground there are 12 large branches.

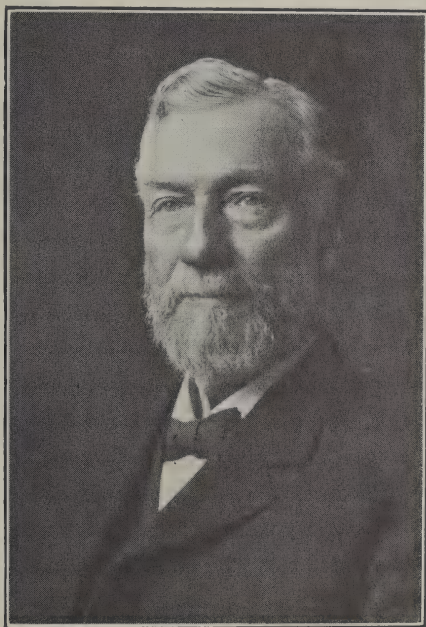
## CHAPTER XVIII.

*The West Farms, or Division, of Wethersfield, Prior to 1708—The West (or Second) Society, 1708-1713—Newington Parish, 1721—Newington Township, 1871.*

BY ROGER WELLES, ESQ.

NAME.—Newington is first so called in the record of its annual Society meeting held Dec. 15, 1718. In the record of the Society meeting held Dec. 2, 1717, it was called the "West Society of Wethersfield", and in the records of the meetings held April 5, and May 15, 1716, it is denominated "The Westwardmost Society in Wethersfield." In the charter of the parish granted by the General Court in May, 1713, it is called the "West Division" of lands in Wethersfield. In the Act passed in October, 1715, annexing Stanley Quarter to Newington, it is called "Wethersfield West Society". It was legally christened NEWINGTON May 25, 1721, by the General Court. The word "New-ing-ton" is made up of three old English words,— "New", "ing", (meaning Meadow), and "Ton", (meaning Town), and is equivalent to "New-Meadow-Town", or "The-new-Town-in-the-Meadow". This was an appropriate appellation for the new parish, as it was well watered by two streams,— "Piper's Brook", sometimes called "Mill Brook", and "Woods River", the latter, the main stream running from New Britain, and perhaps so called from the continuous woods fringing its banks. It is now also called by the name of its tributary. These streams form two valleys, running north and south, west of Cedar Mountain, with meadows and intervening hills, giving variety and beauty to the landscape, fertile fields for the farmer, and mill-privileges to the manufacturer. There is no record extant *why* Newington was so called Dec. 15, 1718, by Josiah Willard, the Society Clerk, when he made up his record of the Society meeting held at that date. No vote of the Society to that effect is recorded. There was one other Newington only in this country at that date. Bloody Point, New Hampshire, was named Newington May 12, 1714, by Gov. Joseph Dudley. There were several Newingtons in England, however, and very likely some immigrant from one of them suggested the old home name for the nameless parish. It is said that in some deeds about that time it is called "Remington". If so, it is a matter of history that Mr. Jonathan Remington was the





*Roger Welles.*



tutor, at Harvard College, of Elisha Williams during the years 1708-1711, and that the latter always retained great affection and esteem for him. It is frequently called "Cowplain" in deeds of about that date, doubtless because used as a pasture. There must have been a "plain", destitute of forest, in the present center of the town, for the words "Cowplain" and "Plain" west of the mountain, are of frequent occurrence, in deeds, wills and distributions at that time. Dr. Joab Brace, in his half-century discourse, intimates that it was named "out of regard to the place of Dr. Watt's residence, near London." There is a Newington on the south side of the river Thames, in the County of Surrey, which is a suburb of London; and there is a "Stoke Newington," on the north side of the Thames, which was once a suburb but now is a part of London, and which was for some years the residence of Dr. Watts. As the Society was not named "Stoke Newington", it may be doubted whether regard for him was a factor of any influence in designating a locality so distant from his residence, and at that period in his life. As Ens. Richard Boardman, a prominent member of the Society at that time, was of a family which came from Newington, near Banbury, in Oxford County, England; that fact may furnish a possible solution of the question. But, whatever its origin, the name Newington is pleasant to the ear, and dear to the heart of its sons and daughters. The township lies between the two cities of Hartford and New Britain, and is traversed by a railroad with cars operated both by steam and electricity; and also by a trolley line running through its center between the two cities; and furthermore by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad; all of which afford unusual facility of ingress and egress.

*Land Grants.*—Land was plenty and cheap in the days of settlement in the Connecticut valley, and both the General Court and the towns were in the habit of making donations of land with a pretty free hand, until finally "lands undisposed of" no longer existed.

*The Beckley Grant.*—The first grant of land within the limits of Newington, as afterwards established, was made by the General Court, October 8, 1668, to Serg't. RICHARD BECKLEY, as follows:—

"This Court grants Sarj't. Richd. Beckley, Three Hundred Acres of land lying by Mattabesset River, half a mile wide of both sides the River, and to run up from New Haven path so far till it doth contain three hundred acres. Sarg't. John Nott, and Sarg't. Hugh Wells are desired to lay out the land." (2 *Conn. Col. Rec.* 100.) Both Nott and Wells, as well as Beckley, were freemen as well as selectmen of the town of Wethersfield, according to the official returns made in October, 1669, from which it appears that there were then only fifty-eight freemen in

the town. At a town meeting held Feb. 2, 1670-1, "Mr. Beckley had 20 acres of land granted unto him on the North side of his land formerly granted unto him, at Divident."

At a town meeting held Feb. 23, 1670-, "It was voted and agreed, that Serg't. Richard Beckley should peaceably enjoy his three hundred acres of land granted him by the Court, with an addition of ten acres nigh his house: and the said Serg't. Beckly doth by these presents give up his right in the Mile-in-Breadth granted to the householders (1668—See Chapt. II.); and if any of his aforesaid three hundred acres fall within the foresaid mile, granted to the householders, he the said Richard Beckley doth by these (presents) engage to give up his right therein to the town, and to take so much of the town land elsewhere, near his house. The committee chosen to divide the Mile aforesaid, viz: Mr. Chester, Serg. Nott, Sam'l. Boreman, John Riley, Serg. Hugh Wells, are empowered by the town to lay out the said land to the said Sergt. Beckley, as aforesaid."

This grant is entered in the third volume of *Weth. L. Rec's.* p. 104, under date of Feb'y. 25, 1680, as follows, "Lands belonging unto Sergt. Richard Beckly and unto his heirs and assigns forever, lying in Wethersfield upon Connecticut River, which he obtained by purchase of Turramuggus, Indian, with the consent of the Court and Town of Wethersfield, with an addition of ten acres at the South end of the said purchase and grant, the whole containing three hundred acres and ten be it more or less, whereon his housing and barn standeth. It is bounded on land not laid out, or not granted, South, East and North, and a highway between the West Lots and the aforesaid land West." This tract contained more acres rather than less. Turramuggus was the successor of Sowheag as the sachem of the Wongunk Indians who lived at the "bend" of the Mattabesett (Great Brook). This grant was located at the home of these Indians, and some miles from that part of Wethersfield inhabited by the first settlers. It is probable that this propinquity of residence was to the disadvantage of both Whites and Indians.

In December, 1669, Serg't. Beckley instituted a prosecution against two Indians for stealing from him at his farm at the Mattabesett River, which shows that he had a house and cellar there at that time. The case was tried before the Court of Assistants, (*Rec. Particular Court* III, p. 94), Dec. 24, 1669.

Beckly "complained of Suggusha and Wawwott for pilfering and stealing from him a small kettle and a pair of compasses, a gimlet, a

heading chisel and about six gallons of cider, from him at the farm at Mattabesett River.

"The said Indians, being examined, confessed that they were at the said Beckly's cellar upon the Sabbath Day last was a fortnight, and stole six quarts of cider and a gimlet, but not the compasses, nor chisel, nor kettle.

"Phillip Goffe complained of Suggusha and Wawwott for pilfering and stealing from him a pail and about a barrel of cider, and some apples and about two pounds of tobacco. The said Indians, being examined, confessed they did steal away a pail, and a pail full of cider, and a peck of cider-apples, from him, the said Goffe, and some apples, and about two pounds of tobacco.

"There hath been time spent in looking after these Indians, the constable and five men two days and twelve days, and the constable and two men two days more,—all is eighteen days. The Court, having considered the premises, do adjudge Suggusha and Wawwott to pay to Richd. Beckly three pounds, thirteen shillings and sixpence. And to Phillip Goffe two pounds, twelve shillings, sixpence. And to the constable of Wethersfield, for the charge in seeking them up, two pounds, eight shillings, which is to himself. And to those five that went with him into the woods, three shillings per day, and to the rest two shillings per day.

"And for their offense herein to the Country, they are to be severely corrected, forthwith, by whipping upon the naked body. And when they have paid their fees, and discharged the above said sums, they are to be released from their imprisonment."

The Court apparently exercised both civil and criminal jurisdiction in the same case, giving judgment against the Indians to pay the complainants their damages, as in a civil action; and imposing the penalty of whipping for the offense to the Country, as in a criminal case.

The fact that the offense was committed on the Sabbath, no doubt added greatly, in the minds of the members of the Court, to the sinfulness of the theft. The cider was the chief attraction which tempted these Indians in both cases probably; but the fact that this temptation was brought to their very doors by the white men, was apparently overlooked by the Court. Cider was unknown to the Indians until introduced by the white settlers.

Richard Beckley was chosen one of the constables of Wethersfield at a town meeting held February 18, 1662-3, and was sworn in as such before the Particular Court at Hartford, March 5, 1662-3. It is probable that he came to Wethersfield some time between 1659 and 1662,



as the records of the New Haven Colony show that he was a resident there from 1639 to 1659, and a prominent member of Mr. Davenport's church. He was appointed Sergeant by the General Court of the New Haven Colony May 22, 1648. He was often a juror in the Particular Court. He died Aug. 5, 1690. His land is now in Beckley Quarter, in the town of Berlin, having been annexed to the Great Swamp Society in Farmington in Oct., 1715, and incorporated as a part of Berlin in May, 1785.

PHILIP GOFFE probably lived also in that neighborhood. He was one of the householders who drew lots, Feb. 23, 1670-1, in the "Mile-in-breadth", his lot, No. 60, being separated from Beckley's grant by a highway. In 1669 he was one of the freemen of Wethersfield. Serg't. Beckley was probably the first settler in Newington.

*The Mile-in-Breadth.*—At a town meeting held Feb'y 2, 1670-1, it was voted:—"That *the land next Farmington bounds*, one mile in breadth,—that is to say, East and West, shall be divided to all the inhabitants,—that is to say, to householders that live on the West side of Connecticut River in the bounds of Wethersfield, to every man an equal proportion,—that is to say, to one man as many as to another, to be to them and their heirs forever."—(*Weth. Town Votes*, I, 50.)

Thus the ownership of land was recognized by our fathers as the basis of human prosperity, and the "household," or family, as the grand unit in its equal distribution. This tract of land was divided upon the strictly communal principle that each household was entitled to an equal proportion in the land that belonged to all in common. There must have been 76 households in the town at that time, for the tract was divided by lot into 76 shares or "lots." Each lot was 26 rods wide and contained 52 acres. At a town meeting, held February 23, 1670-1, (*W. T. V.*, I, 112), it was voted that no one should sell his lot to any one but an inhabitant of the town, and that the division should begin at the north end. They then drew lots, which fell as follows, to-wit:

Sec. 4.

Lot Owners.

Hartford.

<p>Lots one mile long, 26 rods wide.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. John Cherry.</li> <li>2. Mrs. Holister.</li> <li>3. Joseph Smith.</li> <li>4. John Coltman.</li> <li>5. Mr. Kimberly.</li> <li>6. Jonat. Smith.</li> <li>7. Goodwife Stodder.</li> <li>8. Mrs. Weels. (Wells)</li> <li>9. Thomas Hurlburt.</li> <li>10. Isaac Stiles.</li> <li>11. Thomas Kircum.</li> <li>12. Mr. Willard.</li> <li>13. Mr. Bulkly.</li> <li>14. Willi Moris.</li> <li>15. Mr. Blackleach.</li> <li>16. John Curtis.</li> <li>17. Dan. Rose.</li> <li>18. Josi. Churchill.</li> <li>19. Ensign Goodrich.</li> <li>20. Hen. Buck.</li> </ol>	<i>Highway 12 Rods Wide.</i>	<p><i>Half Mile Common.</i></p> <p>Rev. John Woodbridge's Grant. 200 Acres. Voted April 26, 1686. Laid out March 24, 1727.</p> <hr/> <p>Highway 10 Rods Wide.</p> <hr/> <p>Half Mile Common or The Furlong.</p>
<p>Highway 4 Rods wide.</p>		<p>The Mile-in-Breadth.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. Nat. Graves.</li> <li>22. John Riley, Sen.</li> <li>23. Tho. Williams.</li> <li>24. Amos Williams.</li> <li>25. Isaac Boreman.</li> <li>26. Tho. Curtis.</li> <li>27. Hugh Weels. (Wells)</li> <li>28. Joseph Wright.</li> <li>29. Mr. John Chester.</li> <li>30. Sam. Boreman.</li> <li>31. Jacob Johnson.</li> <li>32. Sam. Butteler.</li> <li>33. Anthony Wright.</li> <li>34. Thomas Holister.</li> <li>35. John Saddeler.</li> <li>36. Josi. Gilbert.</li> <li>37. Micaell Griswold. (John)</li> <li>38. Sarg. Beets.</li> </ol> <hr/> <p>Highway 8 rods wide, with end gates.</p> <hr/>	<i>Highways</i>	<p><i>Meeting House</i> <i>Sawmill Lots, 110 acres.</i> <i>John &amp; Joseph Riley, 40 acres.</i></p> <p>Emanuel Buck, 50 Acres.</p> <p>63 rods long, 54 rods wide, Sam'l. Boreman, 20 acres.</p> <p>Half Mile Common.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>39. John Goodrich.</li> <li>40. Mr. Martin.</li> </ol>		

41. Len. Dix.	<i>Highways.</i>	Half Mile Common.
42. Mrs. Latimer.		
43. Will. Saylor.		
44. Siges. Richals.		
45. Sam. Wright.		
46. Capt. Atwood.		
47. John Deming, Sen.		
48. Mr. James Treat.		
49. John Belding.		
50. Sam. Hurlbut.		
51. Eman. Buck.		
52. John Beckly.		
53. Alexander Keny.		
54. Goodwife Wakely.		
55. Edward Benton.		
56. Rob't. Francis.		
57. Tho. Couch.		
58. John Edwards.		
59. Sam. Haile, Sen.		
Highway.		
60. Philip Goafe.	<i>Highway.</i>	310 Acres in a Tract 160 Rods Wide.  Serg't. Richard Beckley's Grant. 310 acres. Granted by the General Court. Oct. 8, 1668. Confirmed by the Town, Feb'y. 23, 1670/1. Half a Mile Wide. Annexed, Oct., 1715. to The Great Swamp Society.  Half a Mile Wide.
61. Nat. Butteler.		
62. Nat. Boman.		
63. Mr. Tallcutt.		
64. Willi. Warnor.		
65. Tho. Wickum.		
66. Capt. Weels. (Welles)		
67. Jonat. Deming.		
68. John Bromson.		
69. Serg. Kilburn.		
70. Serg. Deming.		
71. John Haile.		
72. Tho. Wright.		
73. Tho. Standish.		
74. Serg. Nott.		
75. John Robins.		
76. Benj. Crane.		
Annexed Oct. 1715, to the Great Swamp Society.—17 lots, each 26 rods wide—442 rods for length of tract.  (Land not divided.) One Mile Wide.		

*Middletown.*

[The following remarks are added from the Manuscript of Judge ADAMS.—H. R. S.]

"In addition to the seventy-six 'Householders' living west of Conn. River, in Wethersfield, and named in the foregoing list—one more, Serg. Richard Beckley, the pioneer of 'Beckley Quarter,' (who had

been already provided for) should be added; making seventy-seven, in all. In 1672, the following-named persons were treated as West-of-the-River householders, and, (as there were no more of the 52-acre lots remaining) were each given 80 acres of land at 'Nayaug,' South Glastonbury:

Mr. Richard Treat	Son of Richard, the Settler.
Mr. John Hollister	Son of John, the Settler, deceased.
Richard Smith	Son of Richard, the Settler(?).
Thomas Edwards	Son of John, Settler.
John Wadhams	The Settler; had a son John.
Sam. Hale, Jun.	Removed to Glastonbury.
Caleb Benjamin	Removed to South Glastonbury.
Thomas Loveland	Son of 'Widow Lovenam' Wethersfield, 1649(?).

"Of these, Mr. Treat had never lived east of the River, although he had a 'farm' at Nayaug. Wadhams was never a resident east of the River; having several homesteads in Wethersfield village, from 1654 to 1676, the date of his last purchase there. Richard Smith was living *east* of the River; either on land given to him by James Boswell, in 1660, or on land bought of James Wright (originally John Reynolds') in 1664. Lieut. John Hollister was, and had been for some years—living upon his homestead, at Nayaug. Thomas Edwards had been living, since about 1648, at Hockanum, east of the River; originally as a tenant of Samuel Wyllys. Sam. Hale, Jun., had been given 58 acres of land, in 1670, (by his father-in-law, Thomas Edwards) at 'Beaver Holes,' in 'Nabocke,' near Salmon Brook; and therefore was probably living east of the River. Caleb Benjamin and Thomas Loveland were, almost certainly, living east of the River; although *Chapin* says that Benjamin never lived on that side.

"It thus seems that the Town so far relented, as to the strict limitations of the vote making the allotment, as to permit, probably *all* householders, whether on the east or west side of the River, to share in the same. So that, of the eight names added in 1672, but two (Richard Treat and John Wadhams) are to be included in the West-of-the-River householders; making seventy-nine in all (counting Richard Beckley as one), as the number of householders living west of the River in 1671. Six more, at least, were living on the *east* side; and one, James Wright, lived on the 'Island.' He was allowed, as late as 1713, to be classed as a west-side householder of 1671.

"In copying the foregoing list, I have not followed the order in which the names were drawn, by lot, and set down in the original.

The first name *drawn*, was that of Thomas Kircum [Kirkham], whose number was eleven. The next, was Tho. Wickum [Wickham]; and so on. Also, I have not, in making the numerical arrangement, in all instances followed the spelling of the original. And I have supplied the *full* name, in cases where only the surname was given.

"In the survey and perambulation of April, 1707, the west line of Wethersfield was found to be six miles and ninety-two rods in length. The southwestern bound-mark, 'a white oak tree, with a heap of stones about it,' was 174 rods east of 'Capt. Thomas Hart's new house.'" The same tree had been adopted in Dec., 1671; and was then stated to be 'about a mile to the south of Mattabeset River.' When Berlin was made a township, in 1785, a large section was taken from the southwest corner of Wethersfield. The present (1892) town hall of Berlin (originally a meeting house) has its north half on the north side of the *old* south line of Wethersfield.

"*'Mile-in-Breadth,'* owing to changes in the names of localities in its vicinity, is now bounded: northerly, by West Hartford; easterly, by other lands in Newington, in part, and partly by Beckley Quarter, in Berlin; southerly, by Beckley Quarter, and other land in Berlin; westerly, by Berlin, New Britain and Farmington. It includes lands formerly in Stanley Quarter, Great Swamp and Kensington parishes; as well as Newington parish, in part. And it is traversed by Pipers' River, besides being closely bordered by the Mattebeset, at its southern extremity.

"It is not probable that any white person occupied any portion of the *Mile-in-Breadth*, until quite a number of years later than 1671. And it is not known that any of the distributees of that year *ever* occupied (*i. e.*, lived upon) any part of it. Nearly every one was in possession of a homestead in Wethersfield proper; whilst a very few were living on the east side of the River, or in the Rocky Hill section of the township.

"The earliest settlers in the '*West Division*' (now Newington), did not settle upon the *Mile-in-Breadth*. With the exception of Serg. Richard Beckley, and his three sons, part of whose domain may have extended a little into *Mile-in-Breadth*, they occupied lots near the sawmill, in Pipe-stave Swamp; the latter being within the limits of Cow Plain, or the Half-Mile Common. In fact, the tier of lots between Cow Plain and Cedar mountain (laid out in 1694), was settled upon before the *Mile-in-Breadth* was; with the exception of the Beckley section, and, possibly, JOHN SLEAD (or Slade), who bought the Jonathan Riley lot, in *Mile-in-Breadth*, in 1681. The ANDRUSES (or An-



drews) and HUNNS, pioneer settlers, did not settle upon Mile-in-Breadth, but in Cow Plain.

"The distribution of 1671 was undoubtedly illegal. Even if the Town (instead of the 'Proprietors') had the right to make *any* distribution, it had not the right to limit the sharers to 'householders,' whether dwelling on the west, or the east side, of the River. Nor was one person entitled to receive just the same number of acres as every other person. The distribution should have been among the representatives of the original Proprietors (purchasers) of the whole plantations, in proportion to their respective rights and interests therein."—*S. W. A.*]

*Highway in the Mile-in-Breadth.*—At the same Town-meeting, Feb. 23, 1670-1, at which these lots were divided, it was voted that a highway should be made across the middle of the Mile-in-Breadth from east to west, eight rods wide, "with sufficient gates at each end."—(1 *Weth. Town Votes*, 99.)

On Nov. 19, 1716, by vote of the town, highways were laid out in that division as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of the division next Middletown, thence running east about half a mile, thence northwardly to the north side of Samuel Benton's lot, ten rods wide; thence east across the division to the Commons, five rods wide, taken out of the north side of his lot; thence from this cross road north to the north side of Sergt. Beckley's farm, four rods wide; thence north through the middle of the fifty-acre lots, ten rods wide, to the north side of James Francis' lot (called "Ten-Rod" highway to this day); thence west to the Farmington line, and east to the Commons, four rods wide, across the division, two rods being taken from the north side of said Francis' lot, and two rods from Isaac Buck's lot next adjoining on the north, and thence from the east end of said cross road north along the east fronts of the fifty-acre lots to the Hartford line.<sup>1</sup>—(1 *Town Votes*, 162 b.)

*Sawmill Lots.*—At a Town Meeting, held October 25, 1677, (1 *Town Votes*, 77):

"There was granted liberty to EMAN'L BUCK, JOHN RILY, SAM'L BOWMAN and JOSEPH RILY to build a sawmill with sufficient ponding, and also twenty acres of land to each of them forever, and to be about Pipe-stave Swamp; *always provided* the said parties make no sale of boards or timber to any other town without the consent of Wethersfield

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<sup>1</sup> The highways here described are next the City of New Britain, and an important part of the town and growing fast.

and townsmen; and to sell boards at home at five shillings per hundred, and slit-work answerable by the rule of proportion; and at the mill at four shillings per hundred, boards and slit-work answerable; and at the end of twelve years the sawmill to cease, if the town see cause, sawing of any timber that groweth on the Common; and the mill to be up and fit to work at or before the last of September next insuing the date hereof. And Hugh Welles, Sarg't, John Nott, Sarg't, John Deming, and Jose. Edwards are chosen as a committee to lay out the above mentioned land."

On March 25, 1680, the town granted to Emanuel Buck thirty acres of land more "next his land at the sawmill, in exchange for half an acre near his house for a highway."—(*I Weth. Town Votes*, 83.) These lands were located together in one section of one hundred and ten acres. They extended from the south side of the present pound to the south side of the residence of the late Henry M. Robbins.

In *Weth. Land Records*, II, p. 169½, under date of March 29, 1684, is this entry:

"Lands belonging unto Sam'l Boreman, Eman'll Buck, John Rily and Joseph Rily, which was granted unto them by the town, viz.: Twenty acres apiece upon the account that they are to build a sawmill, and there is also granted to the said Eman'l Buck thirty acres in consideration of a highway, which the said Buck granted to the town out of his home lot on the North side, so that Sam'l Boreman hath twenty acres, Eman'l Buck fifty acres, John Rily hath twenty acres and Joseph Rily hath twenty acres, which is in all, as it now lyeth together, one hundred and ten acres; and is all of it bounded on the sawmill pond and land left for a highway, between the West Lots and the Furlong, West, and on the Common South, East and North. Four score acres of this land was granted by the town in October 25, 1677, and thirty acres was granted to Eman'l Buck by the town in consideration of the aforesaid highway."

John and Joseph Rily were brothers and located their forty acres on the north side of this tract, Eman'l Buck's lot adjoined them on the south, and Sam'l Boreman's lot on the extreme south completed the tract. According to the terms of the grant the sawmill was "to be up and fit to work," by Sept. 30, 1678. It was the first sawmill in the Town of Wethersfield. Pipe-stave Swamp "about" which the sawmill lots were to be located, was situated east and south of the mill pond, and was so called because pipe-staves had for years been rived from the oak trees that abounded in the low and swampy ground in that vicinity. Pipe-staves were required to be 4 feet, 4 inches long,

4 inches wide, and half an inch at least in thickness, and were inspected by a town inspector. The staves and heads were put into bundles or "shooks," and shipped to the West Indies and other foreign ports, and made into pipes and casks for rum, molasses, sugar, etc. They were exported till late in the 18th century. The road that led from Wethersfield to this sawmill was called "Sawmill Path." The men who rived out the pipe-staves were designated as "Pipers," and the brook on which the sawmill was located was named after them "Pipers' Brook." This brook runs northerly into West Hartford, where it empties into Wood River, formerly so called, which has its source in New Britain.

*Rev. Mr. Woodbridge's Grant.*—The Rev. John Woodbridge was settled at Wethersfield as pastor of the Congregational Church, in 1679. He died in 1691. At a Town Meeting, held December 28, 1685, "Mr. Woodbridge had a grant of two hundred acres of land; and Serg't Jon. Robbins, Em'll. Buck, and Benj. Churchell were appointed a committee to make search in Wethersfield common lands to find a convenient place, both for suiting Mr. Woodbridge and where the town can best spare it; and make return thereof to the town; that the said committee upon the approbation of the said town may lay it out for Mr. Woodbridge."—(*I Weth. Town Votes*, 97, b.) At a Town Meeting held April 20, 1686, it was voted that the land be bounded on the 12 rod highway west, "and on the Hartford line north, and on the commons still east and south, and is to be eight score rods wide on Hartford line, that is east and west, and so far southward as may make up the said two hundred acres. And the former committee who were appointed to view the said land are now appointed to lay out the said land according to this vote, and to record the same to the said Jno. Woodbridge, and to his heirs and assigns forever."

While the above vote located the grant, the committee failed to lay it out and record it, as instructed. On December 12, 1726, a new committee were appointed to discharge this duty, which on March 24th, 1726-7, measured the land 160 rods on the Hartford line east from the 12 rod highway, and south 210 rods, making 210 acres. The extra 10 rods on the south side being probably intended for a highway.

*The Second General Division.*—A second general division of lands in Newington by the town [not the Proprietors] was voted February 23, 1693-4. The division was to be "unto the inhabitants of this town according to the list of their estates, taken and approved in Court, October, 1693, "and with the usual provisions of reservation of land for purposes of highways, watering and feeding places (commons) for

cattle, and with the usual clause of forfeiture of allotment, if the land should be sold to any non-inhabitant of the town." This division, "according to the list," was probably adopted because since the first division of the "Mile-in-Breadth," the town had bought of the Indians the whole territory embraced within its limits, and had paid for the purchase by a special tax laid on the list of estates; so that the division was made upon the same terms as the payment. The General Court had, at a session held May 8, 1690, granted that so much of the town as lay east of the Great River should be a town by itself, and on June 22, 1692, had named the new town "Glassenbury." This accounts for the fact that the whole town were to share in the present division, while only that part west of the river shared in the division of 1671. The two divisions harmonize because the whole town was now west of the river. At a town meeting held October 15, 1694, a committee was chosen to view the commons and make the divisions, consisting of Mr. James Treat, Capt. Robt. Weels (Welles), Lieut. Wm. Warner, Sergt. Jno. Welles, John Stadart (Stoddard), Sergt. John Curtis and John Chester, Jr. At a Town Meeting held April 15, 1695, the committee reported in favor of five different tiers of lots.—(*I Town Votes*, 120.)

The boundaries of this second division was further confirmed by action of the Town, at its meetings of 4 March, 1728, and December 9, 1729.—See *Weth. Town Votes*, II, 51-54, 65-66. See *Appendix VIII*.

*The Parish of Newington Established.*—By the year 1708, the inhabitants of the West Division had so increased that they petitioned the town for distinct parish privileges. And the town, by vote of 20 December, 1708, referred the matter to Mr. Stephen Mix, Lieut. James Treat, Capt. Joshua Robbins and John Chester as a committee to consider and report upon.

At a Town Meeting, held December 8, 1709, it was finally voted: "That the said petitioners, and any that shall inhabit within half a mile of any of their houses, shall have liberty of assembling separately from the rest of the town, and jointly and publicly to gather in the worship of God amongst themselves for four months of the year yearly—that is to say, December, January, February and March, until the lands about them being more peopled, and themselves and their labors blest to such a sufficiency as that they shall be able comfortably, and without distraction, decently and honorably to set up and maintain the ministry and ordinances amongst themselves; and that they shall be released from one-third part of the charge that shall yearly arise for the maintaining the ministry in the town where it now is."



This arrangement seems not to have been entirely satisfactory for at the expiration of two years the following petition was presented to a Town Meeting, held December 24, 1712, in these words: "The good Providence of God having cast our lot here in this place; and we being willing for ourselves and of ours to serve the Lord God of our fathers, and finding it very difficult in the best season of the year, with our families, to attend the public worship of God at Wethersfield, and at many seasons very difficult; and being increased to such a number at present that we may in a tolerable manner be capable to maintain a minister amongst us, with the ordinances of the Gospel, do earnestly entreat of the said town that they would compassionate us under our difficulties (so far as to grant), that we may be a distinct parish for the carrying on the worship of God amongst us. And that the town would please to set out our parish bounds as may include the West Divisions of lands in Wethersfield. That all persons inhabiting within the said bounds, with the lands that are therein improved, may be obliged to pay their proportion to all charges for the setting up and maintaining the worship of God amongst us. And herein you, the said town, would be pleased to gratify our desire and oblige our persons to thankfulness to you. This is the earnest desire of us the subscribers and proprietors as above."

"Ezekil Buck,<sup>1</sup> Nathaniel Churchel,<sup>2</sup> Abraham Woren,<sup>3</sup> Jonathan Buck,<sup>4</sup> Richard Boardman, Enoch Buck,<sup>5</sup> Ephraim Whaples, John Whaples, Joseph Andrus,<sup>6</sup> Ephraim Andrus,<sup>7</sup> Simon Willard,<sup>8</sup> Benjamin Andrus,<sup>9</sup> John Stoddard,<sup>10</sup> Joseph Camp,<sup>11</sup> John Camp,<sup>12</sup> Samuel Hun,<sup>13</sup> Nathaniel Hun,<sup>14</sup> Eliphilit Whittlese,<sup>15</sup> Jonathan Wright,<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Son of Ezekiel and gd-s. of Emanuel Buck, the Settler; rem. to Litchfield, where he was a first settler; thence to Durham.

<sup>2</sup> Son of Joseph, gd-s. of Josiah Churchill, the Settler.

<sup>3</sup> Woren (Warren), perhaps s. of Wm. of Hartford.

<sup>4</sup> Son of Emanuel and Sarah Buck.

<sup>5</sup> Prob. s. of Enoch Buck, the Settler.

<sup>6</sup> Son of John Andrus, of Far.; he also bo't in 1684, Lot 94 (16 acr.) of John and Joseph Riley; also, 1695, Lot 95 (12 acr.), of Jona. Deming.

<sup>7</sup> Son of above Joseph Andrus, leased land, 1711, to Justus Francis, for 999 yrs.

<sup>8</sup> Son of Josiah Willard, the Settler; and schoolmaster at Wethersfield.

<sup>9</sup> Son of Joseph Andrus, of Newington.

<sup>10</sup> Son of John Stoddard, the Settler.

<sup>11</sup> Son of John Camp, of Hartford.

<sup>12</sup> Son of John Camp of Hartford; his dau. Hannah m. Amasa Adams.

<sup>13</sup> Son of George Hun (?). Bo't Lot No. 91, orig. Lazarus Hollister's.

<sup>14</sup> Son of George Hun (?).

<sup>15</sup> Son of John, of Saybrook.

<sup>16</sup> Son of Joseph (?), who had Lot 28 in Mile-in-Breadth and Lot 56 in div. of 1694.



Steven Buck,<sup>17</sup> John Kelcy,<sup>18</sup> Steven Kelcy,<sup>19</sup> Daniel Andrus,<sup>20</sup> Jonathan Hurlbut,<sup>21</sup> Jonathan Buck,<sup>22</sup> Thomas Molton,<sup>23</sup> Richard Beckly,<sup>24</sup> John Deming,<sup>25</sup> Ephraim Deming,<sup>26</sup> Jabez Whittlesey,<sup>27</sup> Benjamin Beckly.<sup>28</sup> This petition was granted at a meeting, December 24th, 1712.

"And it was also by vote agreed and consented to. That the afore-said petitioners should be discharged from paying their part of their minister's rate to the Town of Wethersfield, when once they have attained to those abilities that they can maintain the worship of God among themselves.

"It was at the same meeting voted and agreed that Capt. Joshua Robbins, Lieut. Benjamin Churchel, Mr. Stillman, Nathaniel Stodder and Jacob Griswold, Sen., shall be a committee to look out a convenient place on the commons between the two last divisions, whereon the West Farmers shall erect their meeting-house for the carrying on the worship of God amongst them. And to make return thereof to the next town meeting."

This vote plainly imported a grant of the site that should be selected by the committee and actually appropriated. The Towns of the State had the power, "delegated by the supreme legislative power of the State from its earliest organization," to make such grants of land.

At a Town Meeting held March 23, 1712-13, they reported their choice of a site, a "piece of cleared land adjacent to the house of Joseph Hurlbut and John Griswold, westerly, about the middle of said land, on the west side, of a small black oak tree."

This site, though accepted by the meeting, was never actually appropriated, so that the grant never took effect.

<sup>17</sup> Perhaps son of Henry Buck, the Settler.

<sup>18</sup> Son of Stephen Kelcy, of Hartford (?).

<sup>19</sup> Son of Stephen Kelcy, of Hartford.

<sup>20</sup> Son of Daniel Andrus of Far.; res. at lower end of West Division, at place later Philo Webster's.

<sup>21</sup> Son of Joseph and gd-s. of Thomas Hurlbut, the Settler(?).

<sup>22</sup> Son of Samuel and Sarah Hurlbut.

<sup>23</sup> (Morton) bo't homestead at Rocky Hill, 1712; m. Comfort, wid. of Nath'l Beckly and dau. of Jona. Deming.


<sup>24</sup> Son of Sgt. Richard Beckly, the Settler.

<sup>25</sup> Son of Ebenezer, gd-s. of John Deming, the Settler.

<sup>26</sup> Son of Ebenezer Deming, Sen.

<sup>27</sup> Son of John Wittlesey, of Saybrook.

<sup>28</sup> Son of Sgt. Rich Beckly, the Settler.

		Hartford		North Town Line.		
Farmington 1713.	Mile-in-Breadth. Feb. 23, 1670-71.  76 Lots of 52 acres each.  One mile long, 26*rods wide.	Rev. John Woodbrige's Grant. 210 Acres Dec. 28, 1685.	Third Tier. Feb. 23, 1693-4.	(Short Lots.) Lots 79-87.		
		Highway	Fourth Tier.  (East Tier) Feb. 23, 1693-4 Lots 88-126.			
	Highway 4 rods wide.			Mountain Tier. 1752.		
	West Town Line.	Williams Lot 8 Acres. 		Highway.	Newington Town Line, 1871.  Highway.	Wethersfield.
		Sawmill Lots 110 Acres 1677.				
		Backus Lot. 5 ac	Backus Lot 5 ac			
		Parsonage Lots. 50 Acres. Dec. 7, 1713.				
		Half-mile Common.				
	Middle Highway, 8 rods wide.		Highway.	Newington Town Line, 1713.		
	Annexed to Society of Worthington, May 22, 1794.  Town Line.	Highway, 12 rods wide.				
Annexed to Worthington May 22, 1794.			Town Line		1843. Annexed to Rocky Hill. Fifth Tier. Feb. 23, 1793-4. Lots 127-165.	
Town Line			Town Line.			
Highway.		Highway.				
Highway, 10 rods wide.						
17 Lots.  Annexed to the Great Swamp Society  Oct. 1715.  Annexed to Berlin, May, 1785.	Serg't Rich'd Beckley's Grant. 310 Acres. Oct. 8, 1668. Annexed to Great Swamp Society. Oct., 1715. and to town of Berlin May, 1785.	Beckley School Dist. Oct., 1757.		1843. Annexed to Rocky Hill, Second Tier. Feb. 23, 1793-4. Lots 39-78.		
	Highway, 20 rods wide.					
		Annexed to Was hington Society. May 22, 1794.		1843. Annexed to Rocky Hill, First Tier. Feb 23, 1793-4. Lots 1-38.		
Middletown, 1713.						

*Rough Outline of The West Divisions of Land in Newington.*

This black oak tree probably stood a little north of where the parsonage lot was afterwards located, which site was south of the residence of the late Henry M. Robbins, on the hill, afterwards granted to the Rev. Simon Backus, for his house lot.<sup>1</sup> This site was afterwards abandoned when Beckley Quarter was annexed to the Great Swamp Society, and the site north of Joseph Andrus was substituted in place of it, Stanley Quarter having made this change of site one of the conditions of its annexation.

The grant of the town had to be confirmed by the General Assembly to enable the new Parish to become a corporate body, with power to lay and levy taxes within their limits, as they had to build a meeting house and settle a minister. At the next session of the Assembly in May, 1713, a petition was presented to that body by Jabez Whittlesey and John Deming, as a committee, in the name and behalf of the West proprietors, praying that they might be "such a distinct society for the end aforesaid." It was opposed by certain householders in Beckley Quarter, who presented to the General Assembly a written declaration, date May 15, 1713, signed by Benjamin Beckly, and others, all of whom had signed the petition to the Town of Wethersfield for the formation of the "West Divisions" into a new parish. Then followed a Beckley Argument and Remonstrance, together with a Counter-Argument from their opponents, all interesting, as an exhibition of human nature, but too long for our pages.

These documents show that the contest was real and persistent, but the Beckleys lost their case. The General Court granted the petition for a new Society, and granted an act of incorporation. (*Col. Rec.*, III, 374) which, however, did not locate the site of the meeting house. This silence means, perhaps, that the location made by the town should stand open for future determination.

*Grant of Parsonage Land.*—At the next town meeting after the incorporation of the new society, held Dec. 7, 1713, the West inhabitants presented a petition for a grant of parsonage land.

The town responded to this appeal by appointing Capt. Robins, Lieut. Churchel, Lieut. Belding, and Joshua Robins, 2d, a committee to lay out fifty acres of land at the West Division "to be for an accommoda-

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<sup>1</sup> In a manuscript history of Wethersfield written by Hezekiah Belden, Esq., (born Feb. 17, 1778), a son of Rev. Joshua Belden, he thus alludes to this "black oak tree:" "The writer well remembers this tree. Its shade in his childhood, was the favorite resort of those of his age, and witnessed many of their light-hearted gambols. Its trunk was then in a state of decay, although its top was green and spreading. He grieved when the axe was laid at its roots."

tion of the ministry there." This they did on the commons south of the Sawmill lots, and adjoining the south side of the site chosen by the committee of the town for the first meeting house. It was appropriate for the parsonage lot and the meeting house to be located near each other. The town had to locate both grants on land not already granted to others; this excluded the Sawmill lots and other grants made before that time. The meeting house was directed to be located upon a "convenient place on the commons between the two last divisions."

This parsonage lot continued in the ownership of the Newington Society until March 23, 1774, when the Society voted to lease it for 999 years to such persons as chose to take it upon the conditions required. Capt. Martin Kellogg, Capt. Charles Churchill, and Mr. John Lusk were appointed a committee to make the leases. The avails were to be invested, and the annual interest to be used for the payment of the minister's salary, "and to and for no other use or purpose whatsoever." This fund, in 1830, amounted to \$1,718.86. (*Annals*, p. 138.) On April 6, 1774, Mr. Belden released to the Society all his claim to the land, and in consideration thereof the Society voted, on the same date, to give him annually seventeen pounds "during his continuance in the ministry in this place."

*Beckley Quarter and Stanley Quarter Exchanged.*—The new ecclesiastical society in the "West Division" was now legally incorporated, with the full powers of a parish, being the *Second Society in Wethersfield*. Its geographical limits formed a parallelogram, extending about seven miles in length from Hartford to Middletown, and two miles and 50 rods in width, between Farmington on the West and Cedar Mountain on the East, the latter making a natural boundary between the two societies of Wethersfield. It contained two settlements, one comprising 23 families located North of the center, the other comprising some eight or ten families at Beckley Quarter. The latter, dissatisfied with their enforced alliance with the "Upper Inhabitants," soon began an attempt to gain their cherished desire of union with the Great Swamp Society, where they attended worship. After two years of effort they succeeded in negotiating their annexation to the Great Swamp Society, and the annexation of Stanley Quarter to the West Society of Wethersfield, upon certain conditions; such as the giving of a bond of £50 to the new Society by the Beckleys; the payment of their proportion of the building of a new meeting house, and the removal of the site of the new meeting house farther north to accommodate the inhabitants of Stanley Quarter. By making these concessions the Beckleys won over to their side a majority of the "Upper inhabitants". At a meeting of the new Society,

April 4, 1715, a committee was appointed who favored the exchange, consisting of Benjamin Beckley and Jonathan Hurlbut from Beckley Quarter, and John Stoddor and Nathaniel Churchel from the "upper Houses." To this end the Committee first obtained the written consent of the Stanley Quarter proprietors.

The next step was to obtain the formal consent of the First Society of Farmington to the proposed plan of double annexation. A meeting of the society was held for the purpose on April 11, 1715, and their request received from the Farmington Society a favorable response; so that all which was now needed, was the consent of the General Assembly, to the project. A petition to that body was signed by Benjamin Beckley, Richard Beckley, Stephen Kelsey, Daniel Andrus, John Kellsy, Jonathan Hurlbut, John Andrus, Samuel Hun, Simon Willard, Heze. Deming, John Camp, John Stoddor, Nathaniel Churchel, Mindwell Whaples, James Francis, Benjamin Andrus, *Thomas Francis*, Josiah Willard, Samuel Churchel, Thomas Morton, Abigail Camp, *Nathaniel Stoddor*, *Jonathan Stoddor*, *Isaac Buck*, Joseph Andrus."

Of these 25 petitioners, 8 were from Beckley Quarter, and 17 from the more northern inhabitants out of 23 in all. These names in italics have a pen mark drawn through them. Mindwell Whaples was the widow of Ephraim Whaples, who died in 1713. Abigail Camp was the widow of Joseph Camp, Sen. Although this petition was signed by a majority of the householders of the West Society, there was a large number of persons in the First Society of Wethersfield and some in the West Society who did not approve of the proposed exchange, and who signed a remonstrance, which was laid before the Assembly.

*Remonstrance.*—"We, the subscribers, proprietors, or intrusted with the rights of minors, in the Western Tract of Weathersfield, allowed for a distinct parish or Ecclesiastical Society, expressive of our dissent from the project of uniting of a part of said Tract to Farmington South Society, and of Farmington to the Northward part of our Society, as subversive to the said Society, have hereto subjoined our names. Stephen Micks, Elisha Williams, James Treat, Thomas Wells, Joshua Robbins, Joshua Robbins, 2d., Josiah Deming, Ebenezer Dickinson, Jonathan Belding, Daniel Warner, Joseph Hurlbutt, Michael Griswold, David Wright, Samuel Wright, Jonathan Goodrich, Jacob Griswold, Joseph Killburn, John Rose, Robert Welles, Ebenezer Deming, Gideon Welles, Benjamin Belding, Thomas Wright, Elizabeth Curtis, Wid. Samuel Benton, Nathaniel Nott, Daniel Bordman, Richard Robbins, Hannah Chester, Mary Chester, Ephraim Goodrich, Sarah Kilborn, Sarah Chester, Mercy Chester, William Warner, Elizabeth Warner, Wid.



Joseph Wells, Josiah Belding, Samuel Dix, Samuel Bird, Jun., Abigail Lattimore, Thomas Standish, John Deming, Stephen Lusk, John Griswold, Abraham Woren, Ephraim Deming, Ezekiel Crab, (an inhabitant, not proprietor), Richard Boardman, Jonathan Buck, Jabez Whittelsey, Eliphalet Whittelsey, Jonathan Wright."

These names represented many of the most prominent families in Wethersfield. Rev. Stephen Mix was pastor of the church from 1693 to 1738, and the Remonstrance is in his handwriting, and Elisha Williams was afterwards the first pastor of the Newington church. But the Beckleys, to encourage the exchange, executed a bond that they would help build the first meeting house of the West Society, and pay fifty pounds in four yearly instalments, etc., provided the Gen. Assembly would annex them to the Great Swamp Society.

The Assembly appointed a Special Committee, on this dispute before which Committee the battle was fought out by written documents presented by each side; the Beckley arguments were more complimentary to the Committee than to the "Upper Inhabitants". That of the West Society was confined to the real points at issue; but both are too long to be here quoted entire. The Committee's report to the Assembly resulted in a ratification of the proposed exchange, to the effect that "that part, formerly of Weathersfield West Society, from the North side of Hurlbut's lot and the North side of Stephen and John Kelsey's lands to Middletown bounds, including the Beckley's land, should be annexed to the Great Swamp Society, and obliged to pay all ministerial or parish charges with the Great Swamp people, to that Society: *Provided*, That the said people of that part of the West Society of Weathersfield aforementioned, shall help and do their proportionable parts with the rest of Weathersfield West Society, in the finishing the meeting house in said West Society, and pay to the said West Society in Weathersfield, £50 according to their agreement: *And be it further enacted*, etc., That the lots in Farmington butting upon Weathersfield West Society or Township, that is to say, all the land in the several lots in Farmington bounds from the South side of John Norton's lot on Wolf plain to the North side of the bounds of the Great Swamp, shall be and are hereby annexed to the West Society in Weathersfield, and shall pay in proportion with the said West Society in Weathersfield, in all ministerial or parish charges." (*Col. Rec.* V. 532)

This act established the West Society in more compact form geographically, than when first chartered, and enabled it to build a meeting house, organize a church, and settle a minister. These were all accomplished within the next ten years, and the society entered upon a

career more favorable to its harmony and prosperity. The West Society lost the Beckley farm which extended nearly a mile and a half North of the Middletown line, and also a contiguous part of the Mile-in-Breadth, or seventeen of the lots at the South end of that division, or about 1200 acres in all. Stephen and John Kelsey's lot was formerly owned by Phillip Goffe, being lot No. 60 in the West Division, drawn by him. His son Jacob sold January 5, 1797-8 the north part of said lot to Stephen Kelsey, and the latter sold June 18, 1707, the East end of his lot to John Kelsey. From the Middletown line to the North side of this lot was about four hundred and fifty rods, or nearly a mile and a half in round numbers. Each lot of the West Division was 26 rods wide, and there was a small tract of a few acres south of lot 76, which had not been divided, but was still common. The lots usually overran the surveys, as was often proved by subsequent measurements. The Beckley farm would seem to have largely overrun 310 acres, if its width was 160 rods, but as there was a highway on the East and West sides of this farm, which perhaps came out of it, the discrepancy may not have been very great.

*The First Settlers.*—The tradition is that five persons, three by name of *Andrus*, and the others *SLEAD* and *HUNN*, were the first settlers of Newington, within its present boundaries. The records show that *JOSEPH ANDRUS* drew lot 145, in the fifth tier, in the division of 1693, so that he settled in the town and had property in the list prior to that date. He came from Farmington, where he was born May 26, 1651, the son of John Andrus, one of the first settlers of that town. He married in 1677, and died April 27, 1706.

As Joseph Andrus was not one of those who drew lots in the division of 1671, he could not then have been an inhabitant of the town. He bought March 31, 1684, of John and Joseph Riley, 18 acres of their North Saw Mill lot. The town voted, Sept. 11, 1684, "That Joseph Andrus shall have a small piece of land near his land by the saw mill, convenient to build a house and barn on." (1 *Town Votes*, 94.) This piece of land was probably at the East end of the sawmill lot, whereon he built his house, (south of the present pound) which is said to have been fortified, to which the first settlers retired with their families every night, and slept on their arms. But they cultivated friendly relations with the Indians in the neighborhood, and were never attacked. It is said that a band of Indians had a camping place immediately West of the mill pond, not a half-mile away from the house of Andrus, where they could fish as well as hunt. Joseph Andrus was one of the soldiers from Farmington in "King Phillip's War."

Isaac Buck	Half mile Common	Dr. Joseph Andrus					
Highway							
James Frances	<table><tr><td>Rev. Elisha Williams 8 acres</td><td>Church Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/> Ebenezer Kilbourn pound</td></tr></table>	Rev. Elisha Williams 8 acres	Church Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/> Ebenezer Kilbourn pound	John Whaples Ephraim Whaples Ebenezer Kilbourn			
Rev. Elisha Williams 8 acres	Church Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/> Ebenezer Kilbourn pound						
Mile-in-breadth	Saw mill Lots. 1733 Caleb Andrus	Highway					
	John Whaples						
	Enoch Buck						
	Joseph Hurlbut		Richard Boardman				
	<table><tr><td>30 rods Rev. Simon Backus Lot 5 acres Laid out Mch. 21, 1732-3</td><td>Highway</td><td>Ch. wide 3 Ch.</td></tr></table>		30 rods Rev. Simon Backus Lot 5 acres Laid out Mch. 21, 1732-3	Highway	Ch. wide 3 Ch.	Highway	
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120 Rods Parsonage Lot 50 acres Laid out March 21, 1732-3	19 Chains 55 Links	19 Chains 75 Links					
	33 Chains 25 Links						
	Half mile Common						

The two other settlers by the name of Andrus, were nephews of Joseph, and settled in the South part of the parish. They were DANIEL and JOHN, brothers, sons of Daniel Andrus of Farmington, who was a brother of Joseph Andrus. In a petition dated October 16, 1705, to the Assembly for the incorporation of the Great Swamp Society, appears the name of DANIEL ANDRUS, Jun. His name also appears in the petition presented to the Town Meeting held Dec. 24, 1712, for the grant that the West Divisions might be a parish, and he identified himself with the Beckleys in their subsequent controversies. He was born March 9, 1672, and married Mabel Goffe of Wethersfield, Oct. 30, 1707, and built his house where the house of the late Philo Webster stands, on the summit of the hill East of the old turnpike. He joined the Great Swamp Church in 1718, and attended church at their meeting house. He died Aug. 21, 1748.

JOHN ANDRUS was born June 10, 1680, and married June 26, 1712, Mary Goffe, sister to Daniel's wife. He located in the south part of the parish, and attended church at the "Great Swamp." He signed the petition for the annexation of Beckley quarter to the Great Swamp Society, and also, with his brother, the bond, for the payment of £50 to build the meeting house in the West Society, dated May 13, 1715. He died June 16, 1740.

JOHN SLEAD or Sled, bought the 52 acre lot No. 22 in the Division of 1671, on Dec. 16, 1681, and half of lot No. 23, Nov. 10, 1694. He is said to have built his house near the site of the old Academy building. His name appears in the town, but not in the Society records. It appears that on April 10, 1673, John Sled and his wife were refused a residence in Haddam, "because they were not persons qualified according to law." He was probably the first of the five settlers above mentioned to locate in Newington. He must have left the parish about 1700 for Middletown, according to its records.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> On Feb. 3, 1699-1700, JOHN SLEAD, of Wethersfield, bought of Isaac Lane of Middletown for the consideration of Forty Pounds, thirty-four acres of upland on the east side of the Connecticut River, also ten acres of meadow on the same side of the river.—(*Midd. L. Recs.*, Vol. 2, p. 50.)

John Slead of Middletown conveyed Feb. 9, 1718-19, to his son Jonathan of the same town the above described lands, with the buldings thereon, and his cattle and tools of husbandry, reserving to himself the life use thereof, and reserving to his son-in-law, Sharnagan Barnes, the use of two acres of the homelot, which Jonathan was to convey to John's grandchildren, Abigail and Phebe Barnes, when they should be eighteen years old. He also reserved his "hunting gun" for his grandson, John Slead, "when of age to make good use of it." (*Id.* Vol. 4, p. 103.) He died, Oct. 11, 1719, aged 76, according to his grave stone, formerly in the Portland Quarry Graveyard. This yard has since been moved, and this stone is probably in the yard back of Trinity (Episcopal) Church.

SAMUEL HUNN bought the 91st lot in the division of 1693, containing  $25\frac{1}{2}$  acres, Aug. 14, 1695. His name appears prominently in the town and society records. He located in the North part of the Parish. He died Nov. 1, 1738, aged 67, according to the inscription on his grave stone, which has the following lines.

“The flesh and bones of Samuel Hunn  
Lie underneath this Tomb,  
Oh, lett them rest in Quietness,  
Until the day of Doome.”

He left descendants; but the name of Hunn, as well as that of Andrus, has become extinct in Newington.

As the saw mill was in operation in 1678, a dwelling house was doubtless erected near it at that date, for the accommodation of the workmen. Joseph Andrus bought Sept. 24, 1702, the saw mill with two acres of land, and dwelling house thereon, with the pondage, bounded on all sides on the common, except the East where it was bounded on his own land, and located “on or near a place usually called Cowplain.” This may have been the first dwelling house on the saw mill lots. His son, Ephraim, leased for a gross sum, for 999 years, August. 16, 1716, to James Francis, one third part of the saw mill, which came to him from his father.—(IV. *Weth. Ld. Rec.*, 196.)

Among the petitioners for the incorporation of the West Society presented to the Wethersfield Town Meeting, held Dec. 24, 1712, was NATHANIEL CHURCHILL, who was appointed a Surveyor in 1705, and was probably the first Surveyor in Newington.

JOHN STODDARD, also a petitioner, was appointed a “surveyor for the West Farms” in 1708. JABEZ WHITTLESEY, another petitioner, was appointed a “surveyor for the West Farms” in 1709, and was voted an inhabitant in the following year. ELIPHALET WHITTLESEY was appointed a surveyor in 1710.

All, or nearly all, the signers to that petition were inhabitants in the West Farms in 1712, and those not inhabitants were proprietors therein.

JOHN GRISWOLD was an inhabitant in 1713. JAMES FRANCIS and ISAAC BUCK<sup>1</sup> were inhabitants in 1716. Buck owned the corner lot where Dea. Heman A. Whittlesey has lived, while Francis lived on the next lot South across the street.

RICHARD BORDMAN lived on the lot now owned by the estate of Henry M. Robbins, a little North of the Robbins residence. ENOCH BUCK<sup>2</sup> probably lived on the next lot north.

<sup>1</sup> Grandson of Henry Buck.

<sup>2</sup> Grandson of Emanuel Buck.



ABRAHAM WARREN bought May 29, 1708, 15 acres of lot No. 105, in the East Tier located either opposite the Parsonage Lot or, as the Parsonage Lot was removed east ten rods in 1718, a part of his purchase was probably then embraced in the Parsonage Lot. There was an arbitration in 1728 between Warren and the Society, and there was "some part of the parsonage awarded to him." (*Annals of Newington*, p. 41.) Warren probably lived on this lot.

JOHN WHAPLES lived on the South side of the old road that formerly led from the Green to Cedar Mountain, and Dr. JOSEPH ANDRUS lived on the north side of said road. EPHRAIM WHAPLES lived on the Main Street south of John Whaples. BENJAMIN ANDRUS lived where Lucas now resides, on the Saw-mill lot owned by his father, Joseph Andrus. EPHRAIM ANDRUS probably lived on the Andrus homestead until he sold out, as his name does not appear in the Society records, and some deeds given by him are upon the town records; and his brother Caleb is afterwards found in possession of the homestead. SIMON WILLARD, JOHN STODDARD, JOSEPH CAMP, JOHN CAMP, SAMUEL HUN and NATHANIEL HUN all lived in the North part of the Society. The residences of others have already been given, and the rest are unknown.

*The First Meeting House.*—The main reason urged for establishing the "West Divisions" as a parish, in the petition to the town, Dec. 24, 1712, was that the petitioners might carry on the worship of God among themselves. Yet the location of the first, as well as the second meeting house was the fruitful source of bitter contentions for years.

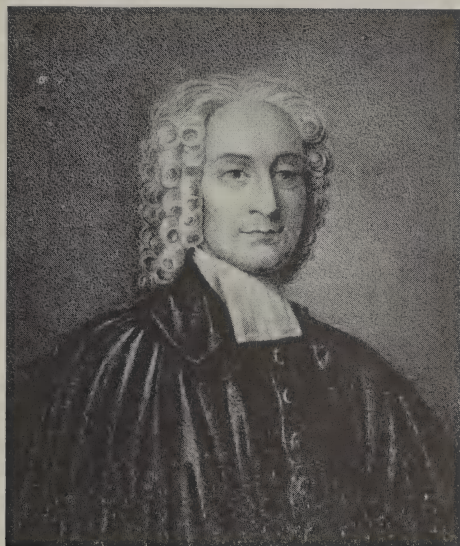
The first location, made by the town committee and approved by the town, March 23, 1712-13, was "adjacent to the house of Joseph Hurlbut and John Griswold," and was so far north of the center of the "West Divisions," that it was the cause of the secession of Beckley Quarter to the Great Swamp Society, as already related. Stanley Quarter consented to be annexed to the West Society upon the condition that the meeting house "be set upon the Plain in the common land, about 20 or 30 rods to the Northward from the house formerly belonging to Joseph Andrus," which site was near the east end of the highway from Stanley Quarter to the main Street of the new parish, and was the most convenient site for them that could be obtained. The Committee of the General Assembly reported in favor of this site. The act of the Assembly, passed in October, 1715, ratified the exchange, although that act omitted all reference to the site of the meeting house. However, the people of the new society were disposed to keep the compact that had been made, and actually brought the timber for the meeting house to the

proposed site. The society voted April 5, 1716, "to raise our meeting house in this instant month April, and also that the said meeting house should be raised within a few rods of the place where the timber now lies." John Stoddard, Sam'l. Hunn, and Stephen Buck were appointed a committee to carry the vote into effect. The meeting house was raised, and at a meeting held May 15, 1716, the same committee were chosen to cover and underpin the house. No other meeting of the Society was held for more than a year and six months. Of course the meeting house remained in the meantime *in statu quo*. Some opposition to the site must have arisen, for at a town meeting held Dec. 10, 1718, the following action was taken.

"The town did then by vote release the inhabitants of the West Society in said Wethersfield, from paying their part in the ministerial charge for the year past upon this condition: that they convene and consent that their meeting house should be brought to John Whaples' Hill. It is to be understood by ministerial charge, the charge for the support of the minister in Wethersfield." (II. W. Town Votes, 5.) John Whaples' hill was probably the hill where is located the present parsonage house. Although our ancestors considered a meeting house a great blessing, and the greater blessing the nearer it was to their homes, and were willing to fight for it if their consciences approved, this appeal to their pockets did not meet with their approval. They were men of strong convictions and resolute wills, and lived in "times that tried men's souls" and that gave them great force of character, but they rejected the bait offered by the town and stood by their compact. There is extant a long argument against the removal probably submitted to a society meeting, or to the prudential committee of the society. The society records of those days in the society's infancy are very meagre, and give no record of any society vote upon the subject. The building of the meeting house went on slowly. The society did vote, however, on May 6th, 1719, "to petition to the General Assembly for repeal of that act concerning an exchange between some part of the bounds of Farmington and Wethersfield," and Jabez Whittelsey was appointed agent to present the petition, which he did, but it was not granted. The society voted, April 21, 1720, "To get hewed planks and lay a floor in our meeting house, and to get window frames and glass for the lower tier of windows, and also to make doors for our meeting house." This was a decided step forward, and shows that the question of site was considered settled. This was a few rods southeast of the present church, and the building faced the east, without steeple or bell; and was never painted. It stood for eighty years.

At a society meeting held Jan'y. 15, 1719-20, John Stoddard and Abraham Warren were appointed "a committee to treat with Mr. Nathaniel Burnham to come and preach with us." This was the first invitation given by the new Society to any minister to preach in Newington. Mr. Nathaniel Burnham was a resident of Wethersfield, the son of William and Elizabeth Burnham, and the brother of the Rev. William Burnham, of the Great Swamp Society. He graduated at Yale in 1709. He never became a settled minister, but lived in Wethersfield, and held many prominent positions. He married May 5, 1714, Mehitable, daughter of John and Hannah Chester. They had four sons and one daughter. The latter married Elisha Williams, Jr. He died Dec. 16, 1754, aged 55. The ministers who preached in the first meeting house as settled pastors were Rev. Elisha Williams (1720-1726), Rev. Simon Backus (1726-1746), and Rev. Joshua Belden (1747-1803). The history of the church during the successive pastorates is really the history of Newington, and will be so treated.

*Ministers of the Congregational Church.*—REV. ELISHA WILLIAMS, *Pastor 1720-1726.*—Mr. Williams, was the 4th son of the Rev. William Williams, pastor at Hatfield, Mass., and his wife Elizabeth Cotton, daughter of Rev. Seaborn Cotton of Hampton, N. H., and was born at Hatfield, Aug. 20, 1694. He entered Sophomore at Harvard College in 1708, and graduated with honor in 1711. The year after his graduation he taught a grammar school at Hadley, Mass. On Feb'y. 23, 1714, he married Eunice, daughter of Thomas Chester of Wethersfield, settled there, and represented that town in the legislature for five consecutive terms, in all of which he was clerk of the House, except one when he was auditor of public accounts. He also, during this period, went on a voyage to Canso, an island near Nova Scotia, where he preached to fishermen for a season. In the years 1716-1718 he acted as tutor to Yale students at Wethersfield. In 1720 he had a severe fit of sickness, and in the language of Pres. Stiles, became "sanctified". The Newington Society, by advice, as is said, of the Rev. Mr. Mix of Wethersfield, and some other ministers of the neighborhood, appointed a committee April 6, 1720, "to treat with Mr. Elisha Williams to come and be our minister in Newington." This probably meant that he should come and preach on trial, or "on probation," as it was sometimes phrased. He undoubtedly accepted this invitation, because we find that the Society voted Aug. 5, 1720: "We did make choice of the Rev. Mr. Elisha Williams to be our minister." The next important matter was to agree upon the terms of his settlement and salary, which, as the service was then usually life-long, and Mr. Williams was only about



Rev. and Rector

*Elisha Williams*  
*Wethersfield May 28<sup>th</sup> 1752*





26 years old, meant a great deal for both parties. Jabez Whittlesey and Abraham Woren were appointed a committee to agree with him and "make return" to the Society. They did not succeed satisfactorily it would seem, for they made no return, and the society appointed another committee Dec. 6, 1720, consisting of Samuel Hun and John Camp, to effect a settlement with him and "make return" to the society. They were also instructed to "endeavor with the town to get a piece of land for our minister, by gift, or exchange, or purchase, according as they shall see most likely to obtain it." This probably indicates *one* of the difficulties of the situation. Mr. Williams must have a house, and a site upon which it could be located. It was customary for towns to make grants of lands to their ministers, out of the town commons, and there was common land in the vicinity of the meeting house in this society, from which a good site could be chosen. Perhaps, indeed, Mr. Williams had already indicated his preference for a site. At all events, this committee soon succeeded in coming to terms with him, for a meeting of the society was called Dec. 21, 1720, when the following agreement was voted.

1. His settlement was to be £170, "to be paid in money or labor done to building him a house, to be paid in two years after this present date, and he shall also have that money that is subscribed or shall be subscribed in the time." Which indicates that a subscription paper had been circulated for his benefit, and was to be circulated two years longer.

2. It was also voted:—"To give to him two days' work in a year of every man that is or shall be in this Society from sixteen years old and upward, capable of labor, for the space of five years ensuing this date, which labor is to be done half in the summer and half in the winter, yearly."

This is an interesting instance of the extraordinary extent of power exercised by an ecclesiastical society in those days of the union of church and state. No man was exempt from the two days' labor whether a church member or not, or whatever his religious belief or his rank in life; nothing but bodily incapacity freed him from the claims of the minister who labored for his spiritual benefit. The labor of the minister was repaid by the labor of his parishioners. The one was a just equivalent for the other, in their estimation. The fact that minors between 16 and 21 years of age, who had no vote, were taxed was of no consequence. Taxation without representation was too common to excite remark.

3. It was also voted:—"To give Mr. Williams, for his salary fifty pounds the two first years, and so to rise two pounds a year until we come to seventy pounds per year, and so to continue so long as he con-

tinues in the work of the ministry with us." This vote contemplated a service of 12 years before the £70 limit should be reached, when Mr. Williams would be 38 years of age. His salary was thus to be gradually increased until he reached the prime of life.

4. It was further voted:—"To raise a rate on polls and all ratable estate, to pay Mr. Williams from the time of his first coming unto the last of March, in proportion to a rate of fifty pounds a year, and then to begin the year with Mr. Williams." As the year then began with the 25th day of March, or "Lady Day," which was considered the date of Annunciation to the Virgin Mary of the future birth of her divine son, and therefore an appropriate day for the beginning of the year of our Lord, this vote shows that the regular yearly salary of Mr. Williams was to begin March 25th, 1721, but it authorizes a minister's rate to pay him for his past services before Dec. 21, 1720, "from the time of his first coming," and until the new year. It is probable that this special rate covered nearly or quite a year's services. If he had not preached for them before the first invitation given him to become their minister, on April 6, 1720, he undoubtedly did so soon after, and certainly before Aug. 5, 1720, when final "choice" of him was made by a formal vote of the Society.

The salary of £50 a year was equivalent to \$166.67 in our money. His settlement of £170 was equal to \$566.67, which was to be paid him in money or labor in building him a house in two years. At a meeting held January 4, 1720-21, it was voted: "For a man to have 2s. - 6d. (42¢) per day from this time to the first of March, and for a man and team to have 5s. (83¢) per day, to work at Mr. William's house." From this vote it would appear that work on his house was begun before the site was secured from the town, but probably the committee had received such assurances from the town authorities as to the grant, that no doubt was felt as to the outcome. At a meeting, held Feby. 16, 1720-21, it was voted: "To pay Mr. Williams rate in grain at the price as followeth, viz.: Wheat at 5s. (83¢) per bushel, rye at 3s. - 4d. (56¢) per bushel, Indian corn at 2s. 4d. (39¢) per bushel." Also liberty was given him "to make a seat or pew for his family in our meeting house," which indicates that his family attended meeting there. At a Town meeting held March 6, 1720-21, there was voted a "grant of eight acres of land to Mr. Elisha Williams; to be laid out near to the widow Elizabeth Andrus' dwelling house, northwestwardly, so as not to hinder or obstruct any highway."—(*II Weth. Town Votes*, 11.) Lieut. Robert Welles, Mr. Jabez Whittlesey and Jonathan Burnham, as a committee of the town, laid out the grant "15 or 16 rods northward of Widow Andrus' barn,"

and their action was approved Dec. 11, 1721, by the town.—(2 *Weth. Town Votes*, 14.) Thus it appears that the Society's agreement with Mr. Williams was gradually carried out in good faith by the Town as well as the Society. This grant covered the site of Mr. Williams' house already in process of erection. The building of this house and the finishing of the meeting house taxed the abilities of the Society so severely that on May 10, 1721, they voted to petition the General Assembly for relief. The greater part of the land in Newington was then unimproved and therefore by law not taxable, and Jabez Whittlesey was appointed to present the condition of affairs to the Assembly. He petitioned that the unimproved lands might be subjected to "a reasonable tax for a reasonable time," and that the Society might be "named and called Newington." The Assembly granted May 25, 1721, that the Society might "raise a tax annually on all the land in the said parish or society that by law is not ratable of 10s. (\$1.67) per the hundred acres, and *pro rata* for greater or lesser parcels, for the term of four years next coming; and that the said society or parish be called Newington."—(VI, *Conn. Col. Rec.*, 246.) The parish voted December 13, 1721, "To undertake to build a barn for their pastor." February 8, 1721-2, "That the remainder of the fifty pounds and the tax laid on the proprietors' unimproved land, to be laid out in our meeting house, to build a pulpit and deacon seat, and to prepare timber and nails for the finishing the lower part of our meeting house, and to proceed as far as we can with the money granted." The "fifty pounds" referred to was that due from the Beckleys, on their bond, and the "remainder" mentioned was probably the last installment of twelve pounds and ten shillings; while the tax on the "unimproved land" was that authorized by the Act of the General Assembly, above cited, of one shilling for every ten acres.

The society voted, September 5, 1722, "That Mr. Elisha Williams shall have sixty pounds money for his salary this year, and next year he shall have sixty-two pounds, and so to raise two pounds a year for the space of ten years, which will make eighty pounds, and so to continue eighty pounds per year so long as he continues in the work of the ministry with us." This was a decided increase in his salary as first agreed and voted. Also he was to be furnished with his wood annually. These preliminaries being settled, it was also voted that "Richard Borman, Ebenezer Kilburn, James Francis, Isaac Buck, should keep a public house of entertainment on the day of the ordination of the Rev. Mr. Elisha Williams." Ebenezer Kilburn lived across the street from the new meeting house. Richard Boardman lived on the south Sawmill

lot, formerly granted to his uncle Samuel Boardman, as already detailed. His house stood about half way between the residence of Henry M. Robbins, deceased, and that old house which formerly stood opposite the Brown place, where are now the old well and foundations to be seen. This last house stood on the Sawmill lot granted to Emanuel Buck. Isaac Buck owned and probably lived on Cabbage Hill, where Dea. Heman A. Whittlesey has lived, while James Francis lived south of Buck on the opposite side of the street, the two on lots 20 and 21 respectively of the Mile-in-Breadth. The day of ordination was a day of rejoicing in those days, followed by the ordination *ball* in the evening, when it was considered a religious duty to make merry with dancing and feasting, while good liquor formed no inconsiderable part of the "entertainment."

It was further voted, September 12, 1722, that "Having had considerable experience of his life, etc., we do make choice, by a full vote, of the Rev. Mr. Elisha Williams to be our minister and pastor."

"Also voted, To Keep Wednesday, the 3d of October, next ensuing, as a fast, to implore divine assistance of God in gathering a church of Christ here, and in the ordination of the Rev. Mr. Elisha Williams."

Rev. Stephen Mix of Wethersfield and Rev. Samuel Whitman of Farmington were invited "to assist on the day of fasting as above mentioned;" and a committee was appointed "to take care and provide for the minister and messengers on that day of ordination."

Also, voted that the third Wednesday, the 17th day of October next ensuing, to be the day of the ordination of the Rev. Mr. Elisha Williams.

The church was duly organized on October 3, 1722, and JOHN DEMING was chosen the first deacon of the church; and we can imagine him occupying thereafter the deacon seat, in front of the pulpit, and facing the congregation for nearly forty years, until his death, May 1, 1761. There is no record extant of the "ministers and messengers" who officiated on the day of ordination. But, as the custom was, Mr. Williams was examined as to his doctrinal views, and preached his ordination sermon before the Reverend Elders, and was set apart for a lifelong service with the new church, as was then supposed. In fact, his pastorate only continued till May, 1726, by reason of his having been chosen rector of Yale College. At the first society meeting after the ordination, held December 20, 1722, a committee was appointed "to seat our meeting house," and on March 1, 1722-3, it was voted "To fill the walls and lath and plaster the lower part of our meeting house." It was voted December 31, 1723, "That our committee should purchase a drum, and add it to our present society charge." And thereafter the



people assembled at the house of God on the Sabbath and Lecture Days, at the sound of the drum-beat, accompanying the pastor from his residence to the church, where they heard him beat the drum ecclesiastic from his high pulpit.

*School.*—The first mention of a *school* occurs in the record of this meeting, in the appointment of Jabez Whittlesey and Isaac Buck “a school committee, and the country money to them to defray a part of the charge of a school.” Every society was obliged by law to keep a school at least half the year. The “country money” was payable out of the Colony Treasury for the support of schools.—(6 *Col. Rec.*, 400.) A society having less than seventy families was only obliged to have a school half of the year, and the Newington society voted January 6, 1725-6, “To have a school six months in this society for the instruction of children, and all the charge more than is allowed by the country to be raised on the polls of those children whom their parents send to school.” The unfinished state of the meeting house is shown by the vote at the same date, “To provide all joists and boards for the galleries’ floor of our meeting house, and to lath and plaster the walls of our meeting house up to the plate, and the new windows to be put up below, and the present windows of our meeting house to be put up above.”

*Burying Ground.*—It was considered fitting that God’s house should have a “God’s acre” near at hand. Accordingly the Town voted, March 7, 1725-6, “To Newington society one acre of land for a burying place, near their meeting house or elsewhere in the half-mile common, and to be laid out by Deacon Jabez Whittlesey, Deacon John Deming and Richard Bordman, who shall bound out the same by sufficient monuments, and record it to said society.” This committee afterwards reported that they had “laid out an acre of land for said purpose a little north of the meeting house in said Newington, including the old burying place, and bounded it out by sufficient monuments, it being sixteen rods in length east and west, and ten rods in width north and south.” This report was not made until December 4, 1752, but the land must have been laid out soon after the appointment of the committee, for Lydia Buck, the wife of Pelatiah Buck, who died July 29, 1726, was “the first that was laid in this yard,” according to the inscription on her grave stone.

The title of *Deacon* is first given to JABEZ WHITTELSEY in the town vote above cited. He was the second deacon of the church, and was appointed between January 6 and March 7, 1725-6. No church record exists during the pastorates of the first two ministers.

Mr. Williams had been chosen Rector of Yale College by the trustees



September 29, 1725, but was not installed until September, 1726, for the reason that the society had been to considerable expense in settling him. On the 4th of May, 1726, £200, 16s., were awarded to the society by a committee of arbitration chosen by the trustees and the society, of which sum £100, 16s., were paid by the colony, and £100 by the college. He probably dissolved his connection with the society at once, for on May 25, 1726, the society voted, "To call the Rev. Mr. Simon Backus upon probation for our minister." Mr. Williams acted as Rector at Yale College till October, 1739, when he resigned on account of ill health. He was afterwards Speaker of the House of Representatives, Judge of the Superior Court, Chaplain to the State forces sent in April, 1745, in the expedition against Cape Breton, Colonel of a regiment raised to be sent to Canada, which, however, did not go, and State agent to Great Britain to negotiate for the payment of the expenses incurred. He supplied the pulpit in Newington temporarily in 1746, for it appears by the Treasurer's book that the society voted in December, 1746, to pay "Mr. Elisha Williams for supplying our pulpit in Mr. Backus' stead £47, 10s." He died July 24, 1755. After he became sensible that the messenger of death was sent for him, he said "Blessed be God, the wished for hour is come." A fuller account of this remarkable man and his descendants is given in the *Williams Genealogy*, in our second volume.

In theology he was classed as a moderate supporter of the "New Lights," as might be assumed, perhaps, from his intimate associations with that class of religionists, during his stay in England. Again, says Dexter, "on the other hand it is known that he shared the prejudices of his half-brothers against his cousin, Jonathan Edwards, in the quarrel at Northampton, and that, at the time of his going to England, he had begun a reply to Edwards' Treatise on the Qualifications for Communion. An anonymous pamphlet, issued at Boston, in 1744, was attributed to his pen. It was entitled: "*The essential Rights and Liberties of Protestants; a Seasonable Plea for the Liberty of Conscience, and the Right of private Judgment in Matters of Religion, without any Control from Human Authority.*" Being a Letter from a Gentleman in the Massachusetts-Bay to his Friend in Connecticut. Wherein Some Thoughts on the Origin, End and Extent of the Civil Power, with brief Considerations on several State Laws in Connecticut are humbly offered, Boston 1744, 8vo., pp. 66."

The argument of this pamphlet is a searching arraignment of the Act of May, 1742, passed by the Conn. Assembly (of which he was a member) "for regulating Abuses and correcting Disorders," and un-

doubtedly reflects his opinions as to the extent of the Civil Magistrate's power concerning religion; though the authorship (with perhaps more reason) is attributed also to his classmate, the Hon. Thomas Cushing, then Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

His agency in collecting funds in England for the college of New Jersey is also an evidence of his sympathy with the "New Lights."

The estimation in which the Rev. Col. Williams was generally held was pretty fairly voiced by Rev. Dr. Dodridge, while Mr. W. was in England, thus: "I look upon Col. Williams to be one of the most valuable men upon earth; he has, joined to an ardent sense of Religion, solid learning, consummate prudence, great candor and sweetness of temper, and a certain nobleness of soul, capable of contriving and advising the greatest things without seeming to be conscious of his having done them."

The Rev. Charles Chauncey, of Boston, writing to Pres. Stiles, in 1768, says: "Mr. Williams of Hatfield, I am ready to think greater than any of his sons, though they were all men of more than common understanding. Rector Williams and his brother Solomon I give the preference to [over] the other sons; tho' they were all too apt to be governed in conduct by an undue regard to self, in one shape or another. This, as I imagine, was a family foible tho' one of the worst."

Yale College possesses a portrait of Rector Williams, painted by Moulthrop, from the original by Smibert, in the possession of the family. By his first wife, he had sons, Elisha, graduated at Yale, 1735; Samuel, graduated at Yale 1735; William, graduated at Yale 1739, and three daughters, of whom only Elisha and Mary survived their father.<sup>1</sup>

His only published writings (unless, indeed, we accept the aforementioned pamphlet as from his pen) are the following:

1. *Divine Grace, Illustrious in the Salvation of Sinners.* A Sermon Delivered in the Audience of the General Assembly of the Colony of Conn., at New Haven, Octob. 33, 1727, in the time of the Sessions There. By Elisha Williams, A. M., and Rector of Yale College. Published by Order of the General Assembly. N. London. Printed and Sold by T. Green, Printer to the Governor & Company, 1728, pp. 47.

2. *Death the Advantage of the Godly.* A Sermon Delivered at Guilford, on the 9th of June, *Anno Dom.* 1728. Being the Lord's Day, next after the Funeral of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Ruggles, Pastor of the Church of Christ There, who Departed this Life on the First Instant, in the

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<sup>1</sup> Dexter's *Yale Biographies*, 632-633; Sprague's *Annals of the American Pulpit*, I; *Celebration of 100 Anniversary of the Church Building and the 175th of the Organization of the Church at Newington, Conn.*, pp. 41-46.

Fifty-eighth year of his Age. By Elisha Williams, A. M., and Rector of Yale College. Printed at the Desire & charge of that Society. N. London, Printed and sold by T. Green, 1728, pp. 42.

The Sermon at Mr. Williams' death, was preached by Rev. Mr. Lockwood, pastor of the Old (or First) Society of Wethersfield.

*The Rev. SIMON BACKUS, Pastor 1726-1746.*—The second minister of Newington, was born at Norwich, Conn., February 11, 1700, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (*Huntington*) Backus. He graduated at Yale College in 1724, and studied theology with Rev. Mr. Bulkeley of Colchester, Conn. In December, 1725, he entered into an engagement to supply the pulpit in Pungwonk, a society taken from Colchester and Lyme, till May, 1726. The society voted June 1, 1726, "To proceed to get some suitable person upon probation to be our minister," and "That Dea. John Deming and John Stodderd do, in behalf of the society, apply to Mr. Russel, Junior, of Middletown, to come and preach here upon probation; and if he shall decline it, then Dea. John Deming is to proceed to make application to Simon Backus of Norwich, to come here on the aforesaid purpose." It would appear that Mr. Russel<sup>1</sup> declined the invitation, and application was then made to Mr. Backus, who accepted the call, for the society voted, August 24, 1726, "To call Mr. Backus to be our minister." The terms of settlement were embodied in a vote of the society passed September 5, 1726, "One hundred and seventy-five pounds of the money given by the country and college, and all the money granted us in our country taxes, be it more or less." As £200, 16s., had been given by the country and college, and all the country taxes for four years "on condition that the money be improved towards settling another minister in said parish," it is now impossible to state the exact amount that he received. His salary was to be "Seventy pounds the first year, and so to rise as we rise in our lists, until we come to ninety pounds per year," also he was to have "his yearly wood, and the use of the parsonage."

Mr. Backus made answer to the society, September 7, 1726, as follows:

"That in a due sense of my unworthiness to be employed in, and insufficiency for that great and solemn work of the ministry, I accept of your call to that work, and accept your proposal for my settlement and yearly maintenance. Desiring your earnest prayers with mine, to the God of all grace, that I may come to you in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ."

<sup>1</sup> Probably the Rev. Daniel (son of Rev. Noadiah), of Middletown. He became the first minister of Stepney parish in Wethersfield, in 1726.

The society voted, November 21, 1726, "That the present committee is to agree with the man that boards Mr. Backus, to provide for him on the ordination day for victuals and drink convenient." The prudential committee at that time were Dea. John Deming, Joseph Hurlbut, and Isaac Buck. The same meeting appointed "Wednesday, the 28th day of December next," as the ordination day. But at the annual meeting, held December 19, 1726, it was voted, "That Wednesday, the 25th of January, next ensuing, to be the day of ordination of Mr. Simon Backus, and day of humiliation to be on Wednesday, the eleventh day." There was a fortnight between the fast and the ordination, as when Mr. Williams was ordained. A prudential committee was appointed consisting of Dea. John Deming, Samuel Hun, Sen., and Caleb Andrus. This committee apparently acted in the place of the former committee in providing "victuals and drink convenient" for Mr. Backus at his ordination, by agreement with his landlord. But some question must have arisen as to the power of this committee to act under the vote authorizing their predecessors to do so, and some must have refused to pay their share of the expense. At the annual meeting held December 18, 1727, it was voted, "That those men, to-wit: Dea. John Deming, Samuel Hun, Sen., Caleb Andrus, did agree with Ensign Richard Borman on the account of the ordination charge; we look upon that agreement to be good, and the levy made on that account to be good, and all those persons that are behind forthwith to pay their just dues." This technicality did not deprive Mr. Backus' landlord, Ensign Richard Borman, of his just dues for the "victuals and drink" provided. The society voted December 16, 1734, "To finish the galleries in our meeting house, and lath and plaster the walls up to the plates and beams, and lath and plaster our meeting house overhead, and to glass the lower windows of our meeting house." "Also voted: Lieut. Martin Kellogg, Jonathan Whaples and Samuel Churchel, a committee to finish our meeting house." And it was voted December 15, 1735, that the same committee "shall have power to repair our meeting house, mend the roof, clapboarding and underpinning." These are all the votes relating to the meeting house passed during the ministry of Mr. Backus. On October 1, 1729, Mr. Backus married Eunice, daughter of Rev. Timothy Edwards of East Windsor, Conn. She was one of ten daughters, "every one of whom has been said to be six feet tall, making the 'sixty feet of daughters, and all of them strong in mind.'" Rev. Jonathan Edwards, author of the famous treatise on the Will, was her brother, and sometimes preached in Newington. (*Dr. Brace's Discourse*, pp. 14, 15.) He was 29 and she was 24 years of age at their



marriage, and they lived 16 years in Newington, and had eight children, six daughters and two sons.

At a Town meeting held December 11, 1727, there was "granted to Samuel Hunn and other persons, living remote from the meeting house in Newington, a liberty to erect at their own cost a *horse house* somewhere in the commons, near said meeting house, and under the direction of James Francis and Isaac Buck, as to the spot whereon said horse house is to stand." (2 *Town Votes*, 48.)

The first mention of a *schoolhouse* occurs in a vote passed at the annual meeting of the society, held December 15, 1729, when Ebenezer Kilburn and Nathaniel Churchel were appointed "a committee to cover the schoolhouse" and there was granted "four pounds to be raised on polls and all other ratable estate, and laid out on the schoolhouse, by the above said committee." This schoolhouse was presumably a near neighbor to the meeting house. No other school is mentioned during the ministry of Mr. Backus.

The grant of ten acres of land to Mr. Backus has already been recited. As his house was by the terms of the grant, to be built "immediately," it was probably erected that year, 1733. Dr. Brace, in the appendix to his half-century discourse, says of it, "That house was standing when I came into this place, and in it I have performed pastoral service. It belonged to the Robbins family, and stood on that rich swell of ground directly opposite the dwelling house of Lowrey and Martin Robbins. It went by the name of the "Backus house, because he was the only minister that ever dwelt in it."

The convention of the General Association of Connecticut held its annual meeting June 18, 1745, at that house. The ministers present were Benjamin Colton, Moderator, pastor at West Hartford from 1713 to 1754, Abraham Nott, pastor at Centerbrook from 1725 to 1756, Jacob Eliot, pastor at Goshen from 1729 to 1766, Simon Backus, Elnathan Whitman, Scribe, pastor of the second church of Hartford from 1733 to 1767, William Gaylord, pastor at Wilton from 1733 to 1765, Ephraim Avery, pastor at Brooklyn, in Pomfret, from 1735 to 1754. They passed a vote, among others, that if Mr. George Whitefield "should make his progress through this government, it would by no means be advisable for any of our ministers to admit him into their pulpits, or for any of our people to attend upon his preaching and administrations."

At a Town meeting, held December 13, 1731, it was voted, "That Newington and Stepney parishes be henceforth released from paying any part of the bell ringer's yearly charge." (II *Weth. Town Votes*, 76.) The town voted March 5, 1743-4, "That the present selectmen



draw out of the town treasury a sufficient sum of money to purchase plank for two bridges over Piper's River, one near Woodbridge's farm, the other in the highway between Mr. Elisha Williams' land and James Francis'; and also for the bridge called Beaver bridge." (II *Weth. Town Votes*, 136.)

The second bridge was over the brook at the foot of the hill west of the residence of Edwin Welles. The first was over the same brook west of the former residence of the Atwood family, on the old road, now abandoned.

The following minister's rate, in part, has come down to us, for the year 1735, and the payments made upon it in the year 1736. It shows how the minister's salary was paid in those days, and that he was largely his own collector. It is as follows:

Sec. 43.	<i>The Minister's Rate, 1735, in Part.</i>		£
Doctor Andrus,	2 - 0 - 0	Joseph Deming,	0 - 17 - 5
Joshua Andrus,	1 - 0 - 0	Hez. Deming,	1 - 00 - 7
Willm. Andrus,	0 - 2 - 0	James Francis,	2 - 15 - 0
Josiah Atwood,	2 - 10 - 10	Thomas Francis,	1 - 15 - 6
Caleb Andrus,	1 - 07 - 0	Benj. Goodrich,	1 - 14 - 2
Widow Andrus,	0 - 10 - 5	Joseph Hurlbut,	1 - 2 - 7
Thomas Buck,	0 - 10 - 2	Charles Hurlbut,	0 - 15 - 9
Joseph Benton,	2 - 13 - 5	Joseph Hurlbut, Jr.,	0 - 11 - 1
Thomas Beecroft, Jr.,	0 - 05 - 0	Josiah Hurlbut,	0 - 12 - 6
Gamal. Bordman,	1 - 04 - 0	Majr. Hun,	1 - 15 - 5
Jonathan Blin, Jun.,	0 - 14 - 5	Sam'll Hun, Jun.,	1 - 11 - 5
Jonathan Blin, Sen.,	0 - 15 - 1	David Hun,	0 - 11 - 1
Mr. Richard Bordman,	2 - 00 - 5		
Isaac Buck,	1 - 00 - 11	<i>Footed</i>	23 - 8 - 5
Pellatiah Buck,	1 - 08 - 7	Gidn. Hun,	0 - 13 - 0
Nathl. Churchill,	1 - 10 - 5	Henry Kirkham,	0 - 14 - 5
David Churchill,	1 - 03 - 9	Ebenezer Kilborn,	1 - 15 - 0
Capt. Camp,	2 - 19 - 5	Capt. Kellogg,	3 - 15 - 9
		Josiah Riley,	0 - 19 - 9
	23 - 8 - 0	John Rodgers,	0 - 08 - 8
Widow Churchili,	0 - 2 - 5	Joseph Root,	0 - 19 - 1
Deen. Deming,	2 - 17 - 10		
Lieut. Deming,	2 - 14 - 2		32 - 14 - 4
Josiah Deming,	2 - 10 - 4		

Our limits do not permit of our giving, in full, as we should like to do, the *credit side* of Mr. Backus' rate book, but we cull from it a few items to show how a minister's rate was paid in those days, and that he was largely his own collector:

Sec. 44.		Payments on Rate, 1736.	£
Jan.	2d, 1735-6.	Josiah Kilborn, Credit, To 3 Bushels of Indian Corn,	0 - 12 - 0
Jan.	2d, 1735-6.	David Churchill, Credit, To weaving a piece of Town Cloth,	0 - 15 - 0
Feb'y	13, 1735-6.	Then received of the Coll'tr., Gamaliel Bordman,*	1 - 17 - 9
Feb'y	14, 1735-6.	Jonathan Blin, Credit. to 4 B. and half oats, Wc. wth. former credit.	0 - 11 - 3
		closes his rate, and balances all accts. between us.	
Feb.	20, 1735-6.	Jonathan Blin, Jun., Credit., To bringing 3 hundred of hay from town, wc. is to go towards pasturing his calves last year,	0 - 1 - 6
Feb'y	25, 1735-6.	Bavill Symou[r], Credit., Ye whole of his rate,	1 - 1 - 8
Feb.	1735-6.	Male [Gamaliel] Bordman [the Collector?], Credit.,	0 - 5 - 0
Feb'y	29, 1735-6.	Josiah Kilborn, Credit., To a par of shoes,	0 - 9 - 0
March	24, 1735-6.	Sargt. Woren [Warren], Credit., To 4 Bushels of Indian corn in ye eare,	0 - 9 - 0
April	21, 1736.	Ephrm. Whaples, Credit., To part of the price a gun, ye whole of his rate,	1 - 8 - 7
April	21, 1736.	To Daniel Wright, Credit., To half a day, mending fence,	0 - 2 - 5
April	21, 1736.	David Wright, Credit., To one Bushel of oats, And to sowing and harrowing about one acre of oats, and plowing my garden,	0 - 6 - 0
April	23, 1736.	Joseph Deming, Credit., To one day, mending fence,	0 - 4 - 6
May	1736.	Sargt. Woren [Warren], Credit., To half a peck of seed corn,	0 - 0 - 9
		And to his son's making a pair of shoes for Nabe.	
May	8, 1736.	Sargt. Woren, Credit., To one day plowing	0 - 10 - 0
May	8, 1736.	Henry Curkom [Kirkham], Credit., To one day mending fence,	0 - 4 - 0
May	8, 1736.	David Churchill, Credit., To one day mending fence, with his team to draw posts,	0 - 4 - 0
May	17, 1736.	Mr. Deming, Credit., To two days and half plowing, The Widow Andrus, Credit., To the Boot on exchange between a three year old heffer and a yearling calf, Wc. with her former credit. clears her rate, and four shillings and a penny over, wc. I am indebted to her.	1 - 5 - 0 2 - 0 - 0
May	19, 1736.	Ebenez. Smith, Credit., By Ephriam Whaples, ye whole of his R.,	1 - 2 - 0
		Wc. is to go as so much paid towards ye gun wc. I bought of Ephr'm. And paid towards ye gun in cash,	10 - 10 - 0
April,	1736.	Ephrm. Whaples, Dr., To some meal, So y't I am indebted to Ephr'm Whaples towards ye gun,	0 - 2 - 0 1 - 7 - 0
July, Latter end,	1736.	Joseph Benton, Credit., To 23 pounds and half of beef, 4 pence per pound,	0 - 7 - 10
Oct.	17, 1736.	Judah Wright, Credit., To half a day work, helping in his father's Room, while he went wth. me to father Edwards (meaning Rev. Timothy Edwards, East Windsor),	0 - 2 - 0
Oct.	28, 1736.	James Tryon, Credit., To one Dozn. & half pygins,	0 - 1 - 1

Oct.,	1736.	Deen. Whittelsey, Credt., Towards his rate next March, on account of Hannah Grout's spinning for my wife,	0 - 18 - 3
Oct.,	1736.	Jonathan Wright, Credt., On Ephriam Whaples, his acct. wc. with his former credt. clears his R. Same is to go as so much paid to Ephriam Whaples, towards ye gun wc. I bought of him, so y't yre. is due to him,	0 - 13 - 6
Aug.,	1736.	Sergt. Abraham Woren, Credt., To his wife knitting two pair of stockings,	0 - 12 - 0
Sept.	25, 1736.	Judah Wright, Credit., Towards his rate, to one day's work of Reuben, negro, to making hay	0 - 5 - 8
		And to one of mowing,	0 - 5 - 0
Oct.,	1736.	Sergt. Buck, Credt., To 12 pounds of beef,	0 - 4 - 0
		And to cash,	1 - 0 - 0
Oct.,	1736.	David Wright, Credt., To part of a day's work, by Henry Curcom, and team, at gathering corn,	0 - 4 - 0

\* Chosen Collector, Dec. 15, 1735.

Rev. Mr. Backus was appointed by Gov. Jonathan Law as Chaplain to the Connecticut troops, which were engaged in the siege and capture of the City of Louisburg, on Isle Cape Breton, in 1745. He must have sailed from N. London with the troops who were to embark "in a very few days." On December 27, 1745, he preached at Louisburg to the troops from Deut. XXX, 19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live," a text undoubtedly appropriate to the time, as owing to the unhealthy climate and unsanitary situation great mortality prevailed among the troops. This may have been his last public message to the dying soldiers, under his charge, for after closing the eyes of many a son of Connecticut in death, he himself fell a victim to the prevailing sickness, and died February 2, 1745-6. His personal effects were shipped on board of a vessel for New England, which foundered on the voyage, and all was lost. Mrs. Backus presented a memorial to the General Assembly, at its May session, 1746, setting forth a loss of £300 by the shipwreck and that body granted her £100 at that session, and £200 at the following October session. The Newington society recognized him as its minister up to the date of his decease, as appears by the following receipt recorded upon its record book.

"Newington, Novembr. ye 27, 1746. Then received of Benajah Andrus, Collector, the full sum of the rate for the year 1745; I say received by me.

"EUNICE BACKUS."

From March 25, 1746, till Mr. Belden began to preach on May 10, 1747, Newington had only a temporary supply for its pulpit. Rev. Elisha Williams supplied the vacancy till the annual meeting in December, 1746, and how much longer cannot now be told. Mrs. Backus continued to reside in Newington for some years after her husband's death, and then removed to the home of her father in East Windsor, where she died June 1, 1788, aged 84 years. Of Mr. Backus as a minister, Dr. Brace says: "From all the testimony which I have found, I am convinced that Mr. Backus was a substantial, orthodox, pious minister, that gave good satisfaction to the people during his ministry."

Rev. Stephen Mix, pastor at Wethersfield, died August 28, 1738, in the 44th year of his ministry, and the Rev. Simon Backus preached his funeral sermon, and that society voted March 8, 1739, to print the sermon if a copy could be obtained.

*Newington's Early Military Record.*—During the ministry of Rev. Simon Backus, occurred the war between England and Spain. War was declared in 1739, and on March 4, 1744, France also declared war against England. Of course, England's American Colonies were involved in the dangers, and their military service demanded by this political emergency.

A trainband or military company was organized at Newington meeting house, October 18, 1726, by the choice of JOHN CAMP as Captain, EPHRAIM DEMING, Lieutenant, and RICHARD BOARDMAN, Ensign. This first company in Newington included Beckley Quarter, and was the fourth in the Town of Wethersfield, there having been two in the first society and one in Rocky Hill prior to this time. Those on the muster-roll in Newington had been previously attached to the North or Second Company of the first society. These three officers were prominent among the early settlers. Capt. Camp died February 4, 1747, in his seventy-second year. He left a son, John, born in 1701, who was deacon of the church from July 2, 1761, to his death, July 27, 1782. He lived in a house west of the residence of the late Shubael Whaples. Lieut. Deming died November 14, 1742, in his 57th year. Ensign Boardman became a lieutenant. (See *B. Genealogy*.)

*Capt. Martin Kellogg, Jr.*—The second Captain was MARTIN KELLOGG, appointed in October, 1735. He was born Oct. 26, 1686, the son of Martin and Anne (*Hinsdale*) Kellogg, and lived with his father in Deerfield, Mass., when that place was sacked by the French and Indians, February 29, 1704. His father and four children, including himself, were captured, and compelled to make the long march of 25

days through the snow to Canada. The children in their captivity learned the Indian language. The eldest daughter, Joanna, became attached to that mode of life, and married an Indian chief. The other three, Martin, Joseph and Rebecca, became useful frequently afterwards as interpreters. Martin made his escape in May, 1705, and returned to Deerfield with three other captives, after a journey in which they almost perished from hardship, suffering and hunger. In August, 1708, a scout of six men from Deerfield fell into an ambush of Indians near Cowass, about 100 miles up the Connecticut River. Martin Kellogg, after shooting one of the enemy, was taken captive a second time.

On his arrival at Canada, he and others were compelled to "run the gauntlet" at the fort, Sault au Recollet, or fort "Oso," on the bank of the Riviere des Prairie, in Montreal. This ordeal has been thus described: "Two long rows of savages, armed with clubs and hatchets, were formed at the gate of the fort. Between these the weary and footsore captives ran for nearly three-quarters of a mile, the savages mocking and striking at them as they ran. Then came the dreadful pow-wow, when the poor sufferers were made to sing and dance round a great fire, while their tormentors yelled and shrieked."<sup>1</sup> Martin Kellogg, according to the family tradition, had his toe-nails pulled out by the roots. He remained in captivity for several years, among the French and Indians and learned the language of both. He must have regained his liberty by the year 1712, for in that year he petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts for some compensation for the ransom paid by him, which body passed the following resolution, November 3, 1712:

"Resolved: That the sum of Twenty-five Pounds be allowed and paid out of the public Treasury to Martin Kellogg of Deerfield, in full of his petition for a Ransom, paid to obtain his liberty from the Indians, expences at Quebeck, and for the loss of his arms, &c., being taken prisoner when in her Majesty's Service."

In 1715, he presented a second petition for further remuneration, as appears by the following resolution passed December 6, 1715, by the Massachusetts Court. "Upon reading a Petition of Martin Kellogg, Importing: That being an Inhabitant of the Town of Deerfield in the time of the great Destruction of it by the French and Indians about twelve years since, and a great Sufferer both in the loss of his estate, and in the hardship of a tedious and long Captivity, from which by a dangerous adventure he escaped, and has since been in the service, and at all times shewed himself ready to serve his Country; and humbly

<sup>1</sup> Alice Baker's *True Stories of New England Captives*, p. 241.



September 29, 1725, but was not installed until September, 1726, for the reason that the society had been to considerable expense in settling him. On the 4th of May, 1726, £200, 16s., were awarded to the society by a committee of arbitration chosen by the trustees and the society, of which sum £100, 16s., were paid by the colony, and £100 by the college. He probably dissolved his connection with the society at once, for on May 25, 1726, the society voted, "To call the Rev. Mr. Simon Backus upon probation for our minister." Mr. Williams acted as Rector at Yale College till October, 1739, when he resigned on account of ill health. He was afterwards Speaker of the House of Representatives, Judge of the Superior Court, Chaplain to the State forces sent in April, 1745, in the expedition against Cape Breton, Colonel of a regiment raised to be sent to Canada, which, however, did not go, and State agent to Great Britain to negotiate for the payment of the expenses incurred. He supplied the pulpit in Newington temporarily in 1746, for it appears by the Treasurer's book that the society voted in December, 1746, to pay "Mr. Elisha Williams for supplying our pulpit in Mr. Backus' stead £47, 10s." He died July 24, 1755. After he became sensible that the messenger of death was sent for him, he said "Blessed be God, the wished for hour is come." A fuller account of this remarkable man and his descendants is given in the *Williams Genealogy*, in our second volume.

In theology he was classed as a moderate supporter of the "New Lights," as might be assumed, perhaps, from his intimate associations with that class of religionists, during his stay in England. Again, says Dexter, "on the other hand it is known that he shared the prejudices of his half-brothers against his cousin, Jonathan Edwards, in the quarrel at Northampton, and that, at the time of his going to England, he had begun a reply to Edwards' Treatise on the Qualifications for Communion. An anonymous pamphlet, issued at Boston, in 1744, was attributed to his pen. It was entitled: "*The essential Rights and Liberties of Protestants; a Seasonable Plea for the Liberty of Conscience, and the Right of private Judgment in Matters of Religion, without any Control from Human Authority. Being a Letter from a Gentleman in the Massachusetts-Bay to his Friend in Connecticut. Wherein Some Thoughts on the Origin, End and Extent of the Civil Power, with brief Considerations on several State Laws in Connecticut are humbly offered,* Boston 1744, 8vo., pp. 66."

The argument of this pamphlet is a searching arraignment of the Act of May, 1742, passed by the Conn. Assembly (of which he was a member) "for regulating Abuses and correcting Disorders," and un-

doubtedly reflects his opinions as to the extent of the Civil Magistrate's power concerning religion; though the authorship (with perhaps more reason) is attributed also to his classmate, the Hon. Thomas Cushing, then Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

His agency in collecting funds in England for the college of New Jersey is also an evidence of his sympathy with the "New Lights."

The estimation in which the Rev. Col. Williams was generally held was pretty fairly voiced by Rev. Dr. Dodridge, while Mr. W. was in England, thus: "I look upon Col. Williams to be one of the most valuable men upon earth; he has, joined to an ardent sense of Religion, solid learning, consummate prudence, great candor and sweetness of temper, and a certain nobleness of soul, capable of contriving and advising the greatest things without seeming to be conscious of his having done them."

The Rev. Charles Chauncey, of Boston, writing to Pres. Stiles, in 1768, says: "Mr. Williams of Hatfield, I am ready to think greater than any of his sons, though they were all men of more than common understanding. Rector Williams and his brother Solomon I give the preference to [over] the other sons; tho' they were all too apt to be governed in conduct by an undue regard to self, in one shape or another. This, as I imagine, was a family foible tho' one of the worst."

Yale College possesses a portrait of Rector Williams, painted by Moulthrop, from the original by Smibert, in the possession of the family. By his first wife, he had sons, Elisha, graduated at Yale, 1735; Samuel, graduated at Yale 1735; William, graduated at Yale 1739, and three daughters, of whom only Elisha and Mary survived their father.<sup>1</sup>

His only published writings (unless, indeed, we accept the aforementioned pamphlet as from his pen) are the following:

1. *Divine Grace, Illustrious in the Salvation of Sinners.* A Sermon Delivered in the Audience of the General Assembly of the Colony of Conn., at New Haven, Octob. 33, 1727, in the time of the Sessions There. By Elisha Williams, A. M., and Rector of Yale College. Published by Order of the General Assembly. N. London. Printed and Sold by T. Green, Printer to the Governor & Company, 1728, pp. 47.

2. *Death the Advantage of the Godly.* A Sermon Delivered at Guilford, on the 9th of June, *Anno Dom.* 1728. Being the Lord's Day, next after the Funeral of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Ruggles, Pastor of the Church of Christ There, who Departed this Life on the First Instant, in the

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<sup>1</sup> Dexter's *Yale Biographies*, 632-633; Sprague's *Annals of the American Pulpit*, I; *Celebration of 100 Anniversary of the Church Building and the 175th of the Organization of the Church at Newington, Conn.*, pp. 41-46.

scenes of the war, efforts were not relaxed by benevolent Christians to civilize such of the Indians as they could have access to. Especially had efforts been made among the Stockbridge tribe. Owing to hostilities it was not thought advisable to set up a school at Stockbridge, although Mr. Isaac Hollis of High Wycomb, Co. Bucks, England, had made a donation for the support of twelve boys, "of heathen parents" to be educated in "letters and husbandry." It was therefore concluded to engage the boys and to send them into the settled part of the country, and thus carry out the benevolent purpose of Mr. Hollis. Accordingly, Rev. John Sergeant, the missionary at Stockbridge, engaged Captain Martin Kellogg of Newington, in Connecticut, to take and support the twelve boys, and thus carry into effect the object which had been for some time in contemplation. The boys having been selected, set out for Newington at the date above given. After they had spent a year under the direction of Captain Kellogg, they accompanied him to their former home, and a favorable report was given of their progress and civilization. Captain Kellogg was selected as their tutor and governor, as he had knowledge of the Indian language, having been twice captivated and carried a prisoner to Canada in his youth."—*French and Indian War*, p. 161, by Saml. G. Drake.

In Sheldon's *Deerfield*, it is said that these twelve boys were in Capt. Kellogg's house at Newington for three years, and that, at the time of his death, "he was employed by Mr. Isaac Hollis to support and educate at his charge, 24 Indian boys."

It appears by a memorial of his, dated May 10, 1751, addressed to the General Assembly, at its May session, 1751, at Hartford, that he went to Stockbridge, in October, 1750, and that from the 27th of that month he was "wholly devoted to the instruction of the Mohawks, who are come to him at Stockbridge; and hath accepted two-thirds of his support from the Province of Massachusetts, at the rate of £50 sterling, per annum; and no provision is made for the other third part, but he undertook, relying on the goodness of the Colony of Connecticut to supply the same" \* \* \* "That the number of Indians of the Mohawks now with him to be instructed, together with their friends who have the care of them, is between fifty and sixty, and he daily expects more, there being a good report of their kind reception carried back to their own country." \* \* \* That there are now at the Carrying Place (from Hudson's River to Wood Creek), a number of Caughnawagas to whom he hath sent an invitation to come in, in all which he hath acted the more freely, having the countenance of the

Assembly of the Province, and this Colony, and shall proceed to invite, and instruct them that come, as far as he shall have encouragement and supply in time to come. And further humbly proposes that it is necessary to have a good scholar there to learn the Mohawk tongue, and that one Indian and one Mohawk be educated at College, which with an English scholar, will in time to come, be under peculiar advantages to propagate knowledge and refute error among these dark nations. And further also desires to know the pleasure of this Assembly whether it will be agreeable to have Hendrick come with him to Hartford, and one more chief with him, during the sitting of this Assembly."

Upon this memorial showing "that divers of the Indians of the Six Nations attend him there, in order to be instructed in reading and the principles of the Christian faith," the Assembly, "in order to encourage and promote so good a design," authorized a committee to expend, in conjunction with Kellogg, £250 more. This is the last vote in the Colonial Records relating to Capt. Kellogg. His active life was now drawing to its close. It is fitting that this last public recognition of his services finds him acting the part of a benefactor to that race who had done so much to embitter his early life. With true missionary spirit, he thought only of supplying their material and spiritual wants, teaching the benighted Red man, the principles of that Christian faith which undoubtedly comforted his own heart when the grim messenger, which comes to all, called him to go down into the dark Valley of Death.

In 1739, the militia of the State was organized into thirteen regiments and Wethersfield was included in the sixth. A draft of one-half of the Newington muster-roll was made July 2, 1741, at one hour's warning, of six officers and twenty-three privates. They were sent in the expedition against the Spanish West Indies. Their names were: *Ensign* ROBERT WELLS; *Sergeant* CALEB ANDRUS; *Drummer*, DAVID WRIGHT; *Corporal*, JONATHAN WHAPLES; *Sergeant*, SAMUEL CHURCHILL; *Corporal*, ZEBULON ROBBINS; *Privates* SAMUEL HUNN, JONAHAN DEVERUX, THOMAS STODDARD, ZEBULON STODDARD, NATHANIEL CHURCHILL, DANIEL WILLIARD, WILLIAM ANDRUS, JUDAH WRIGHT, HENRY KIRKHAM, JOSEPH ANDRUS, JEDEDIAH ATWOOD, STEDMAN YOUNGS, ELIJAH ANDRUS, ABRAHAM WARREN, ELISHA DEMING, JANNA DEMING, BENJAMIN GOODRICH, JONATHAN BLINN, MARTIN KELLOGG, DAVID COLEMAN, THOMAS ROBBINS, CHARLES HURLBUT, JOSIAH WHITTLESEY. No record remains of the military service of these men in that expedition, but the names of many of them survive in the subsequent records of the society and town.



Among the forces from Connecticut that garrisoned Louisburg after its surrender, with Rev. Simon Backus, was Capt. ELIZUR GOODRICH, of the 12th Company, who also was from Wethersfield. He was promoted Major June 3, 1745, and Lieut.-Colonel, October 29, 1745. Among the privates appear the following Newington names: THOMAS ROBBINS, ELISHA STODDARD, DAVID STODDARD, died January 13, 1746; *Corp.* JOSEPH SQUIRE, died February 7, 1746; GILES NOTT, died January 10, 1746; PHILLIP SQUIRE, BENJ. DEMING, JOSIAH BUCK, JOHN BLINN, and perhaps others. The expedition returned to New London, July 1, 1746. Thus Newington responded to the calls of duty and patriotism to Church and State to the full extent of its slender resources. It gave up ELISHA WILLIAMS to the cause of education, Rev. SIMON BACKUS to that of patriotism, it furnished in KELLOGG a religious instructor to the Mohawk Indians, and sacrificed many valuable lives in the constant wars with the French, Spanish and Indians. It grappled with nature and made the wild wilderness a fertile field, it built bridges and roads, a meeting house and schoolhouse. It so treated the Indians that no hostile encounter ever took place within its limits, on the contrary for three years it provided a school for the instruction of Indian boys in the principles of Christian faith. Its inhabitants were loyal to their convictions of right, "to God and their native land."

The Rev. JOSHUA BELDEN, *Pastor 1747-1803*.—The third minister of Newington, was born at Wethersfield, July 19, 1724, the son of Silas and Abigail (Robbins) Belden; graduated at Yale College in 1743, and began to preach in Newington, May 10, 1747, as a candidate. The society voted, June 15, 1747, to give him "a call to be our minister," and appointed a committee to treat with him "about his salary and settlement." On July 6, 1747, it was voted to give him the use of the parsonage "so long as he is our minister, and preaches the Calvinistical Doctrine, as is general at this day, preached among the Dissenters." Also to give him yearly 8 cords of wood, while single; and 16 cords "after marriage." A settlement of £1,000 was voted August 10, 1747, to be paid in three annual and equal installments, and £200 salary during the first three years. Also £57 were to be paid him in grain after his settlement, for his yearly salary, and the price of the grain so to be paid was regulated, viz.: Wheat at 4s. per bushel, rye at 2s., 8d., Indian corn at 2s., oats at 1s., 4d. The society agreed, September 7, 1747, "To choose a committee to appoint a time with him for his examination and ordination; and likewise to appoint the fast, and tavern-keepers." The committee chosen were Capt. Josiah



Willard, Capt. Martin Kellogg, and Dea. John Deming. The two important matters of "fast and tavern-keepers" were satisfactorily arranged, and the new pastor sent to the society his formal acceptance of their "invitation to engage in this important and difficult work of the gospel ministry." He stated his willingness to forego the last £100 of his settlement, lest the £1,000 might "occasion some dissatisfaction;" "desiring nothing may be done but with a ready mind, hoping for the blessing of God upon you and me in all our ways, and that we may be built up in peace and love through faith unto salvation." The ordination took place November 11, 1747, and the expenses as recorded add up £35, 2s., 6d. (\$120.30).

Mr. Belden's *Church Records*, gives the following *List of Church Members, November 11, 1747*.—"A list of the persons in full communion in ye church in Newington at ye time of my taking ye oversight of s'd church:

Dea. John Deming and his wife.  
 Capt. Martin Kellogg and his wife.  
 Capt. Josiah Willard and his wife.  
 Jeames Patterson and his wife.  
 Eliphalet Whittlecy and his wife.  
 Mr. Josiah Deming and his wife.  
 Joseph Hurlbut and his wife.  
 Samuel Churchill and his wife.  
 David Wright and his wife.  
 Jeames Francis and his wife.  
 David Churchil and his wife.  
 L't. John Patterson and his wife.  
 Josiah Kilborn and his wife.  
 William Smith and his wife.  
 Ebenezer Smith and his wife.  
 Joseph Andrus and his wife.  
 She propounded in Wethd.  
 Joshua Andrus.  
 Henry Kircum and his wife.  
 William Andrus and his wife.  
 Thomas Stoddard and his wife.  
 Wm. Wells and his wife.  
 Beavil Seymore and his wife.  
 Thomas Lusk and his wife.  
 John Lusk and his wife.  
 She recommended from O. C. W'd. (*Old Church Wethd.*)  
 Oliver Atwood and his wife.  
 Both recommended from W'd. 1st church.  
 David Wooleut and his wife.  
 Benjamin Goodrich and his wife.  
 L't. Ebenezer Kilbourn.  
 Pelatiah Buck.

John Camp.  
 Eliphalet Whittlecy, Jur.  
 Joseph Hurlbut, Jur.  
 Zebulon Goodrich.  
 Daniel Kilborn.  
 Timothy Goodrich.  
 Jedediah Atwood.  
 (Name erased here.)  
 Mrs. Chester.  
 Mrs. Baekus.  
 W'd. Camp.  
 W'd. Hun.  
 W'd. Hannah Deming.  
 W'd. Grace Goodrich.  
 W'd. Kilborn.  
 W'd. Sarah Whaples.  
 W'd. Sarah Whittlecy.  
 Elizabeth Stoddard.  
 Experience Warren.  
 Jemima Kellogg.  
 Mary Kellogg.  
 Honor Deming.  
 Hannah Andrus.  
 Martha Hurlbut.  
 Abigail Stoddard.  
 Mary Willard.  
 The wife of L't. Robert Wells.  
 The wife of Caleb Andrus.  
 The wife of Thomas Andrus.  
 The wife of Jonathan Stoddard.  
 The wife of Gamaliel Bordman.  
 The wife of Daniel Willard.  
 The wife of Benjah Andrus.

The wife of Elijah Andrus.  
 The wife of Jacob Whaples.  
 The wife of Timothy Andrus.  
 The wife of George Woolcut.  
 The wife of Zebulon Stoddard.

The wife of Robert Woodrough.  
 Amos Hurlbut and his wife.  
 Recommended from Weathersfield, 1st  
 church.  
 Joseph Wright and his wife.

*Some Later Admissions.*—April y° 10th, 1748, Gideon Hun, and Lydia, y° wife of Sam<sup>11</sup> Richards, were admitted to full communion.

Decem<sup>r</sup> y° 11th, 1748, Solomon Wright was admitted to full communion.

Feb<sup>r</sup> y° 12th, 1748-9, Sibil, y° wife of Joshua Andrus, was admitted to full communion.

August y° 13th, 1749, Timothy Judd and his wife, being recommended from Kensington, were accepted to communion. At y° same time, William Lusk and his wife, recommended from y° church in Meriden, were accepted to communion.

May y° 20th, 1750, Anne Belding, recommended from y° first church in Weathersfield, was accepted to communion.

Septem<sup>r</sup> y° 23, 1750, Thomas Richards and his wife, and Sam<sup>11</sup> Richards, recommended from y° church in Southington, were accepted to communion.

Jan<sup>r</sup> y° 27, 1751, Noah Stanley, recommended from y° 1st church in Farmington, was accepted to communion.

*Note.*—The foregoing records are found in the Patterson manuscript in the Conn. Hist. Soc. rooms at Hartford, copied from the original records of Mr. Belden years ago, which are now lost.

*Relief for Mr. Backus' Loss.*—At the meeting held September 7, 1747, to make the final arrangements for Mr. Belden's ordination, the society also voted: "That Mr. Josiah Deming represent this society by a memorial exhibited to the General Assembly, above-said, to request some consideration for the loss of our minister, who died in their service at Cape Breton some time past." The memorial to the Assembly, at its May session, 1748, stating that Mr. Backus lost his life while engaged in the public service as Chaplain at Louisburg, and that the society was greatly burdened in paying the settlement of their new minister, secured from the Assembly a grant of £150 out of the public treasury, and this money was appropriated, in part, to pay the installment of Mr. Belden's settlement.

Mr. Belden bought of Zebulon Robbins, February 14, 1748-9, a tract of 75½ acres of land in Newington, bounded east on common land, west on highway, north on Robert Welles, and south on Richard Bordman, on which tract he made his home.

A *Third General Division of Lands* was made during the winter of 1752-3, "according to the list of freehold estate given in to and made up by the listers in said Wethersfield since the 20th of August last, with the restriction that orphans and landlords should share for their estates as if put in the list in their own names" At a meeting of the proprietors held June 29, 1752, a committee consisting of Jonathan Belding, Josiah Griswold and Timothy Wright were appointed to lay out to each proprietor his part of the common and undivided land, according as the same should be first appraised by them, upon such proprietor's making his choice.

At a meeting of the proprietors held January 15, 1753, the same committee were appointed to lay out their rights in said land, to those who refused to make choice for themselves.

The committee, on appraising the land, found that £37 was a mean price per acre for the land, and accordingly laid out £37 worth of land to every pound in the list. So that he who chose land appraised at £37 per acre, had one acre to a pound in his list, and so in proportion, and he who chose land valued at more or less than £37 per acre, had less or more than an acre to a pound in his list, proportionately laid out to him. The committee by the aid of Mr. Samuel Messenger, a surveyor, laid out the lands into 29 tiers, which were divided into 436 lots, unto as many proprietors.

*Loss of Beckley Quarter and Stanley Quarter.*—In October, 1753, the inhabitants of Kensington, being divided in sentiment whether to continue as one society or to be divided into two or more, sent a memorial to the General Assembly, by John Hooker, and Isaac Lee, as agents, asking for a committee to be appointed to hear all parties and determine what was best, and make report to the Assembly. That body appointed Jonathan Trumbull, Shubael Conant, and Jonathan Huntington, a committee for the purpose mentioned, who gave notice to Newington, Farmington first society, Middletown first society, and Meriden to appear by their committees on the third Tuesday of April, 1754, at Kensington, "to show reasons, if they see cause, why there should not be some part of their adjoining parishes taken off from them, to be added to the parish of Kensington, to accommodate the dividing the parish of Kensington into several parishes." The Newington Society, February 18, 1754, appointed Peletiah Buck, Josiah Kilborn and Robert Welles to answer this citation and represent the society at Kensington. The society also voted at the same meeting: "That we are very loth to have our neighbors in Farmington separated from us, by reason of the smallness of y<sup>e</sup> parish. But if it will be any ease for Ken-

sington to have a few more added, we do agree rather to have that, *provided* our meeting house comes no further west than y<sup>e</sup> front of the lots, called the Fifty Acre Lots," or Mile-in-Breadth. This concession did not avail. The committee reported in favor of a division of Kensington into three parishes May 16, 1754.

The society then remonstrated against the acceptance of this report, and the ground of the hardship to Newington to be deprived of so many of its inhabitants. The General Assembly accepted the report, with material alterations, confirming Beckley Quarter to Kensington, in consideration of £60 to be paid to Newington in three equal annual installments on May 1, 1755-6-7, with interest from June 1, 1754, and establishing the new society of "New Briton," including the Stanley Quarter. The act provided, "That the bounds of the parish of Kensington, for the future, shall extend no further north than to an east and west line drawn across the bridge called Beach Swamp Bridge, from Wethersfield town line to Southington parish line, easterly by the ancient line of said Kensington, including those two pieces of land taken off from Wethersfield and Middletown," etc. Thus was defined the line between Kensington and Wethersfield. The new parish of New Briton was bounded "south on the north bounds of Kensington parish, easterly on Wethersfield town line, as far north as the north side of Daniel Hart's lot, where his dwelling house now stands," etc., thus defining the line between New Briton and Wethersfield. Thus Newington was shorn of a large part of her territory and inhabitants, which were permanently lost to her. New Britain has now become a city, and Beckley Quarter is a part of the society of Worthington, in the Town of Berlin.

*The French War.*—In the series of campaigns, extending from 1754, (though war was not actually declared against France, until May, 1756) to 1763. Newington contributed largely of men and loyal service. As it was, at that period, merely a *parish* of Wethersfield, the record of its services and the names of its hardy sons who faced the dangers and hardships of a forest warfare against the French and their Indian allies, will be found in the muster-rolls of the companies made up mostly of residents of Newington, Stanley Quarter and Farmington, under the command of Capt. ELI WHITTLESEY, Capt. (Major) JOHN PATTERSON and Lieut. (Capt.) JOHN SUMNER. Each of these officers had undoubtedly seen service in the earlier Queen Anne's and George the Second's wars; probably under the training of that veteran Indian fighter, Capt. Martin Kellogg, who had died a year before the beginning of the war, and of whom they proved to be worthy successors.



In the campaign of 1755, Capt. JOHN PATTERSON was in command of the Fifth Company of the First Regiment. His men were largely enlisted from the Towns of Wethersfield and Farmington. The following members of his company appear to be Newington men: *Sergt.* WILLIAM ANDRUS, *Corporal* NATHANIEL CHURCHILL, CALEB WOOLCOT, CALEB HURLBUT, DANIEL WRIGHT, EPHRAIM WHAPPLES, GILES KILBOURN, HENRY KIRKHAM, JOB ANDRUS, JOHN BELDING, JAMES LUSK, JOHN SQUIRE, ROGER ANDRUS.—*State Archives, War, V, Doc., 208.*

The name of ELI WHAPPLES also appears in Col. Eliphalet Dyer's Company. Doubtless other names in the various muster rolls of that campaign were those of Newington soldiers. And the same may be said of those who were engaged in the other campaigns of that war.

In the campaign of 1756, he commanded the Third (Newington) Company of the Third Regiment under Col. Nathan Whiting, at Fort William Henry. Those from Newington in his company seem to be the following:

DAVID ANDRUS, *Sergt.*, enlisted March 26, discharged Dec. 5; NATHANIEL CHURCHILL, *Clerk*, enlisted Apr. 3, discharged Oct. 30; ELIHU ANDRUS, enlisted March 30, discharged Dec. 2; ELISHA ANDRUS, enlisted Apr. 3, (died) Dec. 7; ABRAHAM HILLS, enlisted Apr. 2, discharged Oct. 20; THOMAS LUSK, enlisted March 27, discharged Nov. 30.

In October, 1756, his company at Fort William Henry consisted of thirteen officers and fifty-three privates, according to his certificate.

During the later years of this war (1760-63), Capt. Patterson was actively engaged in command of the 4th Company in the 4th Regiment, and especially in the unfortunate "Havana Expedition," in which he, as well as 39 out of his company of 73 men, lost their lives, by pestilence.—See the muster-roll on pp. 412-413. He was probably the father of Maj.-Gen. John Patterson, of Revolutionary fame.—See *p. ante*, 524.

The following names were inadvertently omitted from the end of the muster-roll of Capt. Patterson's Company at Havana, 1762, when page 413 was printed: William Andrus, March 15, deserted; Eliakim Morrills, March 15, deserted; Joseph Bunel (Bunnel ?), March 15; Dec. 5; Gideon Goffe, March 15; Dec. 5.

And Johnson Cleveland, John Gordon, Joseph Skiner, Arphenas Skinner, Benjamin Carrier, Peleg Welden (Weldon), John Moor, Jona. Handley, Abel Garnds, Jeremiah Daley—never joined.

The third of this trio of worthy officers, JOHN SUMNER, first appears



of record as a First Lieutenant of the 7th Company, in the First Regiment; but, in 1760, signs the pay-roll (see *ante*, p. 410) as *Captain*. He may have been of Stanley Quarter, or Farmington.

Capt. WHITTLESEY, son of Eliphalet, Sen., and son-in-law of Capt. Martin Kellogg, was born in 1714, and served steadily throughout the campaign of 1756-60, under Gen. Lyman, as captain of the 5th and 10th companies of the First Regiment, and the 6th in the Fourth Regiment of Colonial levies. He died in 1786, at Washington, Ct., whither he had removed from Newington, in 1772.

LEMUEL WHITTELSEY, above mentioned, was the son of Capt. Eliphalet Whittelsey, and married, November 15, 1764, Hannah Welles, the daughter of Capt. Robert Welles, the first settler of that name in Newington, and the sister of ROBERT WELLES, JR., whose name is also on the above roll. These two young men were eighteen years old in this campaign, (the age of service being then from 16 to 60,) and both became prominent in the affairs of the church and society. ROBERT WELLES, JR., became a captain.

Capt. JOHN PATTERSON, of Stanley Quarter, was probably the son of James Patterson who died in 1786.

*School Districts in Berlin.*—There were three School Districts in the territory which was afterwards incorporated as the Town of Berlin, which districts were duly incorporated by the General Assembly,<sup>1</sup> and were known as the South District, the Beckley District and the Island District. To the last two districts some territory in the present bounds of Newington was afterwards annexed, so that the history of Newington is intimately interwoven with that of these two districts. These districts were abolished in 1799, but were re-established by the School Society of Worthington with some changes in their boundaries. For a century the extension of these districts into Newington was a source of irritation and controversy.

This Beckley school district not only embraced Beckley Quarter, which had been annexed to the Great Swamp Society in October, 1715, but also a tract of land extending east of that tract for three-quarters of a mile, and running north from the Middletown line to the north end of Beckley's farm, thus including the south part of the east tier, and perhaps a quarter of a mile off of the west end of the tiers adjoining on the east. When the two societies of Kensington and New Britain were established in May, 1754, Beckley Quarter was retained by Kensington, and when Kensington was again divided into

<sup>1</sup> South School District.—*Col. Rec.*, XIX, 35; Beckley School District, *Col. Rec.*, XI, 79, 80; Island School District, *State Recs.*, II, 54.

the two societies of Worthington and Kensington in October, 1772, by a north and south line, Beckley Quarter was retained by the East Society of Worthington, and when the Town of Berlin was incorporated in May, 1785, it embraced Beckley Quarter, as a part of Worthington Society. The east part of the Beckley school district is now in Rocky Hill, as it embraced more territory than Beckley Quarter as originally annexed to the Great Swamp Society, in 1715.

*Berlin Incorporated a Town, May, 1785.*—The three ecclesiastical societies of Kensington, New Britain and Worthington, were incorporated into the Town of Berlin, by the General Assembly, at its May Session, 1785. As a part of its territory at one time belonged to Newington, as already related, it is of interest to know what the exact limits of the new town were, as defined in its act of incorporation. It states them as follows:

“That the limits and bounds of said Town shall be as follows, viz.: To begin at the North East corner of the Society of New Britain, thence Westerly and Southerly in the line of said Society until it comes to the North East corner of the town of Southington, thence in the line of Southington to Wallingford North line, thence Easterly on Wallingford North line until it comes to the town of Middletown, thence Northerly in Middletown West line until it comes to the South West corner of John Kirby’s home lot, thence Easterly in the South side of said Kirby’s home lot to the West side of the highway that leads to Samuel Galpin’s dwelling house, thence Northerly on the West side of said highway to the road running East and West, thence Easterly in the South side of said East and West highway to the middle of Kirby’s Bridge, so called, thence Northerly as the river runs to Wethersfield, thence as the Easterly and Northerly lines of that part of the Society of Worthington lying in said Wethersfield run, till they come to the East line of the Town of Farmington, thence Northerly in the East line of Farmington to the first mentioned bounds.”—(3 *State Rec.*, 47-8.) It is to be noticed that this northern boundary only included so much of the territory of Wethersfield as had been formerly annexed to the ecclesiastical society of Kensington. The lines of the Beckley school district were ignored, and that part of that district not included in the former Kensington Society and located east of Beckley’s farm, was not included in the Town of Berlin. That part of the Beckley school district not included in the Parish of Kensington, and lying east of Beckley’s farm, was thus described in the act incorporating that district, —“viz.: a line drawn East from the North East corner of Beckley’s farm three quarters of a mile, and a line drawn South from

the East end of said line to the line dividing between Wethersfield and Middletown." This particular tract was not included in the Town of Berlin, being three-quarters of a mile wide east and west, and adjoining Beckley's farm on the east, but was included in the Town of Rocky Hill, incorporated in 1843.—(IV *Pri. Laws*, 1270.)

*The Second Beckley Secession, May, 1794.*—A memorial, dated April 27, 1793, and signed by Theodore Beckley, Solomon Beckley, Enoch Kelsey, Richard Beckley, Luther Porter, Daniel Andrus, Aziel Belden, Hannah Beckley, Aaron Porter, Joseph Richards and David Webster, was presented to the General Assembly, at its May Session of that year, praying to be annexed to the Society of Worthington, in Berlin, "relative to Society and schooling purposes." The petition set forth at considerable length the difficulties that encompassed them. Theodore Beckley was a native of Worthington, but lived in the Stepney parish, six miles from the meeting house there, and only two miles from that of Worthington, where he attended public worship, and was a member of the church. Solomon Beckley, Luther Porter and two others lived in Wethersfield "in a corner," and were uncertain to what society they did belong. Daniel Andrus, Richard Beckley, and widow Hannah Andrus, with Aziel Belden, were under about the same difficulties, "several of their dwelling houses standing within ten, and none more than eighty rods from said Worthington parish line, and about two and half miles from the meeting house therein." Enoch Kelsey lived near the southwest corner of the Newington Society, about four miles from the meeting house there, "without any open road thereto, unless by going about six miles around, having a large family, is necessitated to attend public worship with the people of said Worthington, within about two miles of his dwelling house, whereunto is a good open highway, paying taxes there voluntarily for his privilege, and obliged also to pay a full proportion of all taxes to the said Society of Newington, annually, by his house standing *not fifteen rods from said Berlin line.*" This petition was served May, 5, 1793, upon Wethersfield First Society.

Another motive of the petitioners, not mentioned, however, in the petition, may have been to get rid of the tax for building a new meeting house in Newington, which had been so long agitated, and was bound to come sooner or later.

The Newington Society determined May 13, 1793, to oppose this petition, but their opposition was of no avail, for at its May session, 1794, the Assembly granted the prayer of the petitioners, and formally annexed to the Town of Worthington, a tract of territory which reached

north of Berlin town line about a half mile, and east from Farmington line a mile and one-half, also east of Beckley's farm so as to include the south part of the "East Tier" adjoining, to the Middletown line, as well as a contiguous part of the first and second tiers. This annexation was not to the Town of Berlin, but to the Parish of Worthington, "*for parochial purpose merely.*" The part east of Beckley's farm is now in Rocky Hill. The north and east lines of this territory in Newington are still the boundary lines between the two Ecclesiastical Societies of Newington and Worthington, and the old road under Cedar Mountain is the east line of the Newington Society, while the north and west lines thereof are coincident with the town lines.

The Worthington Society, on September 16, 1794, took action which resulted in the establishment of two school districts out of the annexed territory, viz.: Enoch Kelsey, Elisha Dunham and Abel Ellis, with their respective farms, were annexed to the Island district, and that the remainder of the new territory was annexed to the Beckley district.

*Parochia* or *Parish* signifies, in this act of annexation, the Ecclesiastical Society of Worthington, with territorial bounds, which had control, in 1794, of Ecclesiastical or Church affairs, which also then included school affairs. In 1795, the School Society of Worthington was carved out of the Ecclesiastical Society, with the same boundaries, by the public act of that year, relating to the avails of the Western Lands.

By the constitution of 1818, the powers of all such societies were secured to them, but if any person should choose to separate himself therefrom, he should "thereupon be no longer liable for any future expenses which may be incurred by said Society."—(*Const., Art. 7*).

The lines between the two school societies of Newington and Worthington were re-established in 1849, by the action of the two societies.

This line runs nearly east from the New Britain town line to the highway leading south from the residence of Jedediah Deming, and follows that highway south to the Berlin corner. The first fence running east and west north of the Church Street Burying Ground marks the north line of this tract. It strikes the turnpike a little south of the residence of the late Oliver Richards. Christ Church and its cemetery were located in the Worthington Society. This tract as far west as Church Street was annexed to the "Beckley" or Seventh school district of Berlin, and that part of the tract west of Church Street, comprising some 200 acres, was annexed to the "Island," or Sixth school district of Berlin, by vote of the Worthington School Society, passed 16 Sept., 1794.



As early as May, 1799, an act was passed providing: "That each school society shall have full power to divide itself into proper and necessary districts, for keeping their schools."—(*Rev. Stat.*, 1808, p. 581, Sec. 1.) Under this authority the school society of Newington, in 1835, passed a vote creating a new district, called the South East School District. The north line of said district to run an east and west course from the Southwest district, ten rods north of the house in which Reuben Whaples now lives; thence east to the Wethersfield line; and to include all the inhabitants living south of said north line, in Newington School Society.

After the school societies had become merged in the towns, the Town of Wethersfield, in which the Newington Society had been merged, at a meeting held November 4, 1856, enlarged this district by embracing in its boundaries the greater part of the former southwest district, as follows:

"Voted: That the north line of the Southeast school district of Newington shall commence on the west, at the Northwest corner of Amon Richard's home farm where it intersects with New Britain town line, and run easterly on the said Richard's north line to a highway, thence in the same direction on the line of said Amon and Oliver Richards, to the present west line of said district, including all the property south of the above described line, not included in other districts."

School societies were abolished and their powers merged in their respective towns in 1856.—(*Session Laws* of 1856, Ch. 41.) Sec. 3, of Chap. 3, of that act provided that "Every school district heretofore formed from parts of two or more towns, shall, for all school purposes, belong to the town within which the schoolhouse of said district is now situated," etc. As the schoolhouse of the Beckley district was in the Town of Berlin that district belonged wholly to Berlin for school purposes and the same was true of the Island District. But the Newington School Society was re-established in 1862.—(*5 Private Laws*, 501.) The second section of that act provided that: "Said Society shall embrace all that part of the town of Wethersfield not included in the first society." This excluded the Town of Berlin from thereafter exercising any power or authority under or by virtue of the Resolution of May 22, 1794, in that part of the old Worthington School Society which was situated within the boundaries of the new school society of Newington. But this act did not affect the boundary lines of the Beckley and Island school districts, which still embraced territory in Newington, as already defined. These separate school districts, exercising a jurisdiction in Newington, which was centrally located in



Berlin, made no little trouble to the residents of the Southeast school district of Newington, who desired to enlarge that district by the annexation of this foreign territory thereto, and thus obtain some relief from the burden of taxation which was heavy whenever any extraordinary expense, like the building of a schoolhouse, was incurred.

At a special town meeting held in Newington, February 26, 1876, the school district number seven of Berlin, known as the Beckley district, was divided; "and that the part of said district lying in this town be, and is hereby, annexed to the adjoining school district of Newington, known as the fourth or southeast district. Doubts prevailing as to the validity of this vote, it was approved by the General Assembly, and the southeast school district, since 1880, has embraced all the territory in Newington, formerly a part of the Beckley school district of Berlin. No change, however, was made in the Island district. In 1872, the Newington School Society was again abolished, and so much of the First School Society of Wethersfield as was situated within the town lines of Newington was also abolished, and both merged in the Town of Newington.—(7 *Special Laws*, 301.) In the autumn of 1898, the various school districts were consolidated, under the authority of Section 2193, of the *General Statutes*, into one district, with boundaries coincident with the town limits. Thus the whole town of Newington is now one school district.

*Worthington School Districts Abolished, October, 1799.*—Upon the petition of certain inhabitants of Worthington School Society, in the Town of Berlin, the three previously existing school districts of the Worthington School Society were redivided with lines somewhat changed. The Beckley district was afterwards known as the Seventh school district, and the Island district as the Sixth school district, but as the Town of Berlin has consolidated its districts, all these lines have been abolished and these districts will hereafter exist in name only, unless the town should resume the district system.

*The changes and depreciation of the Continental currency during the war, led to much difficulty in the settlement of debts, contracts and salaries, and was the subject of much National and State legislation after its close.*

The Newington Society records show that Mr. Belden's salary during the years 1777-1779, was adjusted by a committee appointed by the society and by Mr. Belden, who mutually agreed that he should be paid £100 in addition to what he had already received, which agreement was ratified by the society April 2, 1782.

Mr. JOSEPH CAMP and Mr. DANIEL WILLARD, JR., had taught school during the same three years, and the society also appointed a committee to settle with them what additional sum should be paid them. The society voted, November 7, 1781, £7 to Mr. Camp, and £31, 9s. to Mr. Willard to make up the deficiency due to them. The same trouble arose in the payment of the various rates or taxes and votes were passed to remedy the difficulty as far as possible.

*Schools.*—At a town meeting, held December 29, 1747, liberty was granted to the Parish of Newington to get eight loads of firewood for the school off of the Commons.—(II *Weth. Town Votes*, II, 146.) This gratuity was afterwards increased to ten trees for firewood. It may be presumed that these trees were of good size. The society voted, December 5, 1748, "That Thos. Robbins procure a lock for the school-house door, and be paid for it out of the Society Treasury," which shows that there was only one schoolhouse then in the society; but the school was sometimes divided and kept in different localities. This same meeting voted: "That the school be divided, to be kept three months in the Middle of the Society, six weeks at the West Side (Stanley Quarter), and six weeks at the North End." It was voted, December 4, 1749: "That the school be kept part of the time near Serg't Thomas Francis', and part of the time near Mrs. Backus'." And December 3, 1750: "That the school shall be kept all the time in one place, near about Thomas Lusk's, [who lived next neighbor to Ephraim Whaples], near the Green at the center." On December 2, 1751, the vote was: "That the school shall be kept in this Society six months the year ensuing, the school to be kept four months and a half in the schoolhouse, and six weeks of the time in some place at the West Side of the Society." JOHN CAMP and JOSEPH HURLBUT were appointed collectors of the school rate, "raised upon the polls the year past." As JOHN CAMP, lived in the north part of the society, he collected the school rate of those who lived north of the center. The following is his school-rate for 1751:

	Polls.	£	s.	d.		Polls.	£	s.	d.
Willm. Wells,	3	1	- 13	- 0	Thomas Stoddard,	1	0	- 11	- 0
Gideon Hun,	2	1	- 2	- 0	Thomas Francis,	1	0	- 11	- 0
David Wolcott,	1	0	- 11	- 0	Amos Hurlbut,	1	0	- 11	- 0
Zebulon Stoddard,	1	0	- 11	- 0	Pelataiah Buck,	1	0	- 12	- 0
Daniel Willard,	1	0	- 12	- 0	Saml. Hun,	1	0	- 11	- 0
Joshua Andrus,	3	1	- 13	- 0					
Joseph Deming,	2	1	- 2	- 0					
Jacob Whaples,	1	0	- 11	- 0					
							10	- 9	- 0

JOSEPH HURLBUT collected the school rate south of the center. The sum of £20, 3s., 3d., had been ordered raised on "the polls of them that went to school," so that each collector collected about one-half of the sum total. On December 3, 1753, it was voted: "That the school be kept six months at the schoolhouse, and two months over the West side of the Society." As Stanley Quarter was annexed to New Britain in 1754, the words "West Side" thereafter disappear from the records. On August 3, 1756, it was voted: "That, after the present year, the school in this society shall be kept into two parts, and the one part to be kept yearly, as near the dwelling house of Daniel Willard, southwardly, as may be; the other near the dwelling house of the heirs of the Rev. Mr. Simon Backus; and that each of said schools shall be kept not less than three months, annually, by a school master; and also, that each of said schools shall have their equal part of the Country Money and Loan Money for that purpose; and that if any schoolhouse be built at said places, it shall be at the charge of particular persons, and not at the charge of this society." This vote shows that the schoolhouse at the center was no longer used. There is no further mention of it, and it had doubtless gone to ruin. The vote also proves that there were not yet seventy families in the place, as there is only a six months' school ordered, to be kept in two parts, of three months each, so that no scholar had over three months to attend school during the year. It was voted, December 1, 1757, that the school for the year ensuing should be kept six months, in two parts, one part at "the North End, at the new schoolhouse near Serg't Daniel Willard's, and the other near about Nathl. Kirkum's." So that the second schoolhouse in the parish was erected in 1757, at the North End.

It was voted, December 1, 1760: "That the school be kept the year ensuing, three months in the winter season in two places, one at the schoolhouse near Daniel Willard's, and at the South End near the Wid. Robbin's; and that the school be kept three months in the summer at three places, one at each end, and in the middle of the society, by a school dame." This is the first mention of a *school dame*, and shows an early appreciation of female teachers. Many of our best teachers since have belonged to the gentler sex. This arrangement as to localities where the schools should be kept was continued for several years. On February 15, 1764, 10s. were voted to Charles Hurlbut and Jonathan Blinn "for a house to keep the school in." And the same amount to James Blinn for the same purpose, December 1, 1764. Interest in the subject of education was growing, for December 5, 1768, it was voted: "That the school be kept the ensuing year, four months in

the winter and four months in the summer, in the same places as usual," which was an advance of two months for the year.

On December 23, 1773, it was voted: "That two schoolhouses be built by this Society by the Society's Cost," and a committee was appointed to fix the places for them. A schoolhouse is mentioned at the South End, for the first time, in the record of this meeting. One had been authorized to be built "by subscription," January 14, 1771, "near Francis Deming's home lot." This must have been the third schoolhouse in the parish. The Colonial Legislature, in October, 1766, had passed an act relating to schools, in which it was provided (12 *Col. Rec.*, 497): "That each town and society shall have full power and authority to divide themselves into proper and necessary districts for keeping their schools, and to alter and regulate the same from time to time as they shall have occasion." Under this authority, the society voted, December 8, 1774: "That the North End of the society, down as far as the North side of Deacon Joshua Andrus' common lot, to be a school district." This was the first in the parish. At the same time it was voted: "To build a schoolhouse upon the Society's cost at the South West corner of Mr. John Lusks' lot, near to Capt. Martin Kellogg's house." This was nearly in front of the present residence of Edwin Welles near the traveled path, where is now his drive-way, and was the fourth schoolhouse in the parish. At a special meeting of the district, held November 23, 1854, it was authorized to be moved to the present school yard, which was conveyed to the district by Edwin Welles. It continued the schoolhouse for the Middle district until it was sold by auction to Edwin Welles, March 24, 1883; a period of about 108 years. That summer a new brick schoolhouse was erected on the same school yard, and was formally dedicated August 11, 1883. This yard furnishes a large playground for the children.

At a society meeting held March 10, 1783, it was voted: "That the society should be divided into three school districts by a committee now to be appointed for that purpose." Capt. Gad Stanley of New Britain, Gen. Selah Hart of Kensington, and John Robbins, Esq., of Wethersfield were the committee. Their report was, April 14, 1783, approved by the society. Since that date there have been three school districts in the society, and a fourth was added in 1835, created by the school society from the South district, and called the Southeast district.

The society voted, April 29, 1783: "To build two schoolhouses upon the society's cost, the North one in the most convenient place at



or near the mouth of 'Guinea's Lane,' and the other in the most convenient place against a little piece of land granted by the town to Billy Blin," to be 25x20 feet in size. "Guinea's Lane" was named after a negro slave of that name who belonged to Dea. Josiah Willard, and upon the latter's death, March 9, 1757, became the property of his widow, Elizabeth Willard. Slavery was not finally abolished in Connecticut till the act of June 12, 1848.—(*Acts of 1848*, Ch. 79, p. 70.) It was voted, February 4, 1784, that the school at the North End should be kept "the full four months, out at Guinea's house," for which he was to be paid twelve shillings. They were soon built. On February 4, 1785, the south schoolhouse was accidentally burned. On October 29, 1787, it was voted: "To keep four months school in each schoolhouse now standing, and also near where the south schoolhouse lately stood, for the year ensuing." A new schoolhouse authorized at the South End, December 22, 1789, was soon erected, at a cost of £60. November 8, 1791, it was voted "to keep four months school at each schoolhouse or district, the year ensuing." And that was the usual style of the vote thereafter. A school committee of one from each district was yearly appointed.

In May, 1795, the General Assembly appropriated for the support of schools in the several societies of the State the moneys received from the sale of the Western Lands belonging to the State, amounting to \$1,200,000, by an act which recognized a distinct capacity in Ecclesiastical Societies, relating to the subject of schools, providing that the legal voters in such societies should annually meet in October, as school societies, to transact business "on the subject of schooling in general, and touching the moneys" appropriated to their use by the act, while the members of the several religious societies were to meet annually in December "to transact any business relating to the ministry and the public worship of God," but should "have no power to act on the subject of schooling."—(*Rev. Stat. 1808*, pp. 43, 44, 45.) Our society continued their oversight of schools till October 3, 1796, when the last votes relating to schools appear upon its records. The school society must then have been organized, and have thereafter taken the sole jurisdiction of the schools. But the record book of the school society having been lost, there is a gap in the history of our schools, which cannot be supplied.

A few memorials, however, have escaped the tooth of time, which illustrate the mode of keeping schools and employing teachers a century ago. Miss ESTHER LATIMER kept the Middle school two seasons, if not more, and her school records are given as kept by her, as follows:



*Newington Middle School, 1796.*

<i>Parents.</i>	<i>Scholars.</i>	<i>Attendance.</i>
Mr. Elijah Welles,	William Kirkham,	8 weeks.
	Jonathan Kirkham,	13 weeks.
	Rachel Welles,	13 weeks.
	Ann Welles,	13 weeks.
	Cynthia Welles,	12 weeks.
Mr. James Welles,	Aaron Lusk,	10 weeks.
	Mary Welles,	13 weeks.
	Cefrona Welles,	11 weeks.
	Gaylor Welles,	11 weeks.
Mr. Reuben Whaples,	Hannah Whaples,	13 weeks.
	Harden Whaples,	10 weeks.
	Anson Whaples,	2 weeks.
Mr. Fitch Andrus,	Lucy Andrus,	13 weeks.
Mrs. Jemima Welles,	Polly Welles,	13 weeks.
	Roger Welles,	13 weeks.
	Charlotte Welles,	13 weeks.
Mr. Roger Francis,	Charles Francis,	13 weeks.
Mr. Justus Francis,	Harvey Francis,	13 weeks.
Mr. Robert Welles,	Abigail Welles,	4 weeks.
Mr. Absalom Welles,	Laurey Welles,	4 weeks.

*Newington Middle School, 1802.*

<i>Scholars.</i>	<i>Attend. Weeks.</i>	<i>Scholars.</i>	<i>Attend. Weeks.</i>
Charlotte Welles,	16.	Betsey Kilbourn,	16.
Sally Welles,	16.	Prudence Howard,	5.
Amanda Kelsey,	13.	Jennet Kirkham,	13.
Joseph Kelsey,	7.	Anson Andrus,	2.
Lemuel Hurlbut,	4.	Ira Andrus,	9.
Betsy Hurlbut,	6.	Martin Beebe,	14.
Norman Francis,	2.	Sophia Lattimer,	15.
Alfred Francis,	15.	Polly Hurlbut,	7.
Cyrus Francis,	2.	Sally Loomis,	13.
Electa Kellogg,	13.	Harry Loomis,	12.
Sibbel Andrus,	15.	Belda Calkins,	8.
Polly Holmes,	6.	Ebenezer Calkins,	9.
Sabra Kilbourn,	8.	Harry Calkins,	13.
Sally Kilbourn,	14.	Belle Kellogg,	4.

Esther Latimer was the daughter of Luther Latimer. She died December 14, 1854, aged 83. It is probable that these two school records represent summer schools, and that winter schools were usually taught by male teachers. The following subscription paper illustrates the method of employing female teachers for summer schools.

“Wethersfield, Newington Society, June 2d, 1800.

“We, the subscribers, for the purpose of having a school set up and kept in the Middle School House in the Society aforesaid, to begin the

first week in June instant, and continue four months, kept by a woman, at the price of seven shillings per week, do hereby agree and promise to pay our proportionable part of the cost of said school, according to the number of children we shall send, and the time they attend; the account of the children's attendance to be kept by the schoolmistress; and do agree to meet on Tuesday evening of the present week at said schoolhouse, to appoint one or more of the subscribers to agree and contract in the name and behalf of us, the subscribers, with a woman to keep said school, and at the close of said school to adjust the said school accounts, and make out each subscriber's part thereof, and receive and collect the same, and pay over to the said schoolmistress. Witness our hands:

John Kirkham.  
Edward Howard.  
Jemima Welles.  
Joseph Kellsey.  
Harry Brown.

Lemuel Holmes.  
Simon Kilbourn.  
William Barnes.  
Mabel Robbins.  
Samuel Loomis.

Roger Francis.  
Martin Kellogg.  
Justus Francis."

*Church Music.*—At its annual meeting, December 3, 1781, the society voted to "do something towards the reviving of singing amongst us," and appropriated £6 "towards defraying the cost of hiring a singing master." That Daniel Willard, Jur., and James Wells were a committee "to procure and hire a singing master, and to apply the abovesaid money."

A further appropriation, March 5, 1782, of 25s. "out of the £35 voted to the schools in our last annual meeting, was made towards defraying the charge of singing in this place; the singing committee to apply the same."

The result of this action was evidently favorable, for on May 3, 1784, it was voted: "To appropriate £4 of the Loan Money, or other monies that may be had towards hiring a teacher to instruct the people in this parish in the art of singing." The "Loan Money" was the avails of the sale of certain lands in the western part of the State, granted by the Legislature for the support of schools, at the May session, 1741.—(8 *Col. Rec.*, 388.) And that Daniel Willard, Jun., Justus Francis, James Welles, David Lowrey and Amos A. Webster were the committee "to hire the aforesaid teacher." It may be presumed that these men were the prominent singers in the society, and most interested in the movement to "revive" the singing. This seems apparent from a vote passed December 19, 1785: "That ELIZUR ANDRUS should be a chorister, in addition to those already in that office, to assist them in singing." As this is the first mention of a chorister,

"those already in that office" must refer to the singing committee above appointed. An addition to these choristers was made December 7, 1789, when "Messrs. LEVI WELLES and JOHN KIRKHAM were appointed choristers, in addition to those now in said office." December 5, 1791, £4 were voted to a committee, "to engage Mr. WILLIAM KILBORN to instruct a singing school in this Society." Elizur Andrus and Simon Welles were the committee. There was further appropriated March 13, 1792, "16s. to Mr. William Kilbourn, in addition to what was before voted, for the encouragement of singing." On January 5, 1795, it was voted: "That this Society will raise £4 for the encouragement of religious psalmody in this place." "That Messrs. Levi Lusk, Ashbel Seymour, Justus Francis and Elijah Welles be a committee to receive and apply the same to the aforesaid purpose, according to the best of their discretion." The controversy over the site of the new meeting house was now engrossing the attention of all minds, and it would appear that the above mentioned committee did not expend the appropriation made to them, for on December 3, 1798, there was voted: "\$20, including the £4 heretofore voted, to revive the singing in this place." "That Messrs. Levi Welles, John Kirkham, Amos A. Webster, Justus Francis and Daniel Willard, Jun., be a committee to hire a teacher, and appropriate the said sum of \$20." After the new meeting house was finished and occupied, it was considered appropriate to further improve the service of praise, and there were votes passed, December 21, 1801, as follows: "That this society will do something to encourage the singing in this society." "Voted. To raise \$15 on the list of this society, to encourage the choristers to teach and encourage the singing; and to be disposed of by a committee," consisting of Messrs. Justus Francis and Levi Lusk. These were the last votes on the subject during Mr. Belden's ministry. One more vote, however, occurs before the ordination of Mr. Brace, passed December 17, 1804: "That this Society raise ten dollars to support the singing in this Society, and that the choristers be appointed to lay out the money to the best advantage."

Such is the official record of our society during its formative period, on the praise service of the church. Its attitude was always friendly to the improvement of this part of the public worship. There is no record of any dissension between the old and modern schools of church singing, as occurred in some congregations. The fathers could contend about the sites of the meeting houses, but when inside of them for divine worship, they praised God with one heart and one soul, lifting up their voices with "Old Hundred," "Mear," "Dundee," "China,"

"Wells," "Windsor," "Rochester," and others, and then listened to long sermons and prayers from their spiritual guides, unfolding the future happiness of the elect, and the dire doom of those finally impenitent.

*Newington in the Revolutionary War.*—[Mr. Welles had prepared a very full and interesting chapter on this period of Newington's history; but it was felt necessary and more in accordance with the general plan of this Wethersfield history, that the military history of the several parishes (as Newington then was) should be embraced, within one chapter devoted to the subject of the American Revolution. In doing this, however, we can assure our readers that great care has been taken by the editor to incorporate in that chapter every item of interest concerning Newington's share in that period of our National history.

The people of Newington fully shared in the patriotic feeling, which pervaded the country during this exciting period. In the Lexington Alarm party of 115 men, who under the command of Capt. John Chester, rendezvoused at Wethersfield church on the 20 of Apl., 1775, preparatory to their hurried march towards the scene of battle, were many Newington men, some of them old veterans of Queen Anne's and the Old French wars, and some younger, but not a whit less ready for the fray. Their names (as far as can be ascertained) will be found—with the letter *N*, affixed in the list of that valiant company of volunteers, in Chapter XI of our first volume; as well as other lists in that chapter.—EDITOR.]

*A Main Highway through the Parish.*—At the November term of the County Court, 1790, on a memorial presented by the selectmen of Hartford and Wethersfield, a public highway was authorized to be laid out under the west side of Cedar Mountain, running from the southeast corner of Atwood's home-lot, to the Hartford line.

*Controversy over the Site of the Second Meeting House.*—By more than a two-thirds majority, the society voted, 20 Dec., 1784: "To build a new meeting house for divine worship." Application was duly made to the County Court and a committee of that body (Roger Newbury, Jesse Root and Selah Hart) reported favorably to a site near Luther Latimer's house, on Back Lane, southwest of the Center mill pond, on the east front of the "West Lots." The Society promptly disapproved. A second application, October, 1785, resulted in the selection by the Court's Committee of Blinn's Hill, in the fields southwest of the present parsonage, inaccessible by any road. Rejected. On a third application, the Court's representatives "pitched a stake" for



the site, in James Lusk's lot, about where Mr. Edwin Welles' present house now is—and this decision was approved, Apl., 1788, by a vote of 40 yeas to 33 nays. Still, unanimity of approval was not secured and nothing was done in the matter until July, 1791, when Capt. Martin Kellogg brought matters to a focus by offering £90 towards the frame of a meeting house if it should be erected on the west side of the Old Green, about 5 rods southward of the southeast corner of the burying ground; and, though Lieut. Lemuel Whittelsey promptly met this proposition with an offer of £100 toward building near Luther Latimer's—the first site selected by the Court's committee—the society closed in with Capt. Kellogg's offer. Application being immediately made to the County Court to establish this site—and two of the three judges appointed concurring in the Latimer site, their judgment was affirmed by the Court in an imperative order, January, 1792, to build at that place. But the society again disapproved and voted, March, 1792, to apply to the May session of the General Assembly. Their memorial, drawn up by Esq. Chauncey Goodrich (later a member of the U. S. Congress), and presented to the legislature by David Lowrey and Roger Welles, "showeth, that their old meeting house, for years past being decayed and altogether unfit to repair or meet in, said society agree to build a new one. That various committees have been appointed and as many attempts made, to affix a place whereon to erect said meeting house, none of which have resulted in such a union of sentiment among the said inhabitants that they could proceed to build said house; to the great grief and discouragement of more than two-thirds of said inhabitants, both in interest and numbers. That the place most agreeable to said inhabitants, and in which more than two-thirds have united, is at the southeast corner of the public burying ground, near the common military parade in said society. That this is the most central spot for roads, and the number of inhabitants, who are principally settled upon the north and northeast parts of said society. The south and southwestern part of said society being either low, moist, pasture land and incapable of settling upon in any great degree, or land reserved for wood and timber.

"That, should said place for said building be established at said corner of said burying ground, said society would be consequently entitled to a donation from an estate of Capt. Martin Kellogg, late of said society, deceased, to the amount of £90, and also of £60, lawful money, in addition thereto, as a free gift, towards forwarding said building, and of which said society, who are but small, and not opulent, stand in much need.



"That said society are in some measure embarrassed in their Proceedings by the Influence of our Resident Proprietors, who own considerable tracts of land in said society, towards the southern part, and wish to draw the house into that quarter, with a view to enhance the value of their said lands.

"That a large majority, more than two-thirds of said society, feel themselves aggrieved by the establishment of said place near to said Latimer's house, and are disinclined to proceeding to build said house, as by their votes and acts in society meeting, ready to be laid before your Honors, will appear. And the former happy agreement and harmony of said society, in their parochial connections, is greatly disturbed and threatened."

The memorialists, asked, therefore, that the Legislature establish and affix the aforesaid place at the southeast corner of said burying ground for building said meeting house upon.

At the next session of the General Assembly, held in October, 1792, the petition was so far granted that a committee of three was appointed, to proceed to view said society and hear all parties concerned, and affix the most suitable and proper place whereon to erect said meeting house, and report to the Assembly. The committee, on 29th October, 1792, visited Newington, "and viewed the various parts thereof, and nearly every house within the same, and fully heard all parties," and reported that they were "unanimously of the opinion, that at a stake by us set about six rods southeast from the public burying ground, in said society, is the most proper place whereon to erect the meeting house."

This report was accepted by the General Assembly, who passed a resolution to carry it into effect, which simply authorized the society to erect a meeting house at that place, thus overruling the decision of the County Court, which ordered the erection at Luther Latimer's. At a society meeting held Dec. 31, 1792, this resolution of the Assembly was approved by a vote of 39 to 3. This vote shows that the aggrieved party did not attend the meeting. The victors were disposed to be magnanimous and made renewed attempts to reconcile the opposing interests. At a meeting held Jan. 9, 1794, the society voted to cast lots between the three sites, near Luther Latimer's, on Blinn's Hill, and on the Old Green, doubtless upon the principle that "the lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord."—(*Prov. XVI, 33.*) The lot fell upon Blinn's Hill. The meeting piously accepted this disposition of the vexed question, and voted to build upon that eminence. The meeting was adjourned to meet on the next afternoon, in the open air, on Blinn's Hill, itself, when the precise spot



The first meeting of the new society was held Nov. 13, 1797, at the house of Elizur Deming, when Selah Beckley was chosen clerk, and John Goodrich, Daniel Ludington, David Steel, and Jonathan Gilbert, Jr., were chosen "a committee to order the necessary business for said society the year ensuing." At a second meeting held Dec. 7, 1797, it was voted to build a church where the stake had been set, fifty feet long and forty feet wide, with a steeple. Thus the two churches were being erected at the same time. It was voted April 19, 1798, to "hire Mr. Seth Hart to preach every fourth Sabbath the year ensuing." The following year he was to preach half the time.

The name of *Christ Church* first appears in the record of a meeting held March 25, 1799, and on July 1, 1799, it was voted: "That this society do approve and adopt the constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Connecticut, as formed in convention at New Haven, June 6th, 1792." Taxes were laid from 2 to 8 cents on the dollar from year to year. On Dec. 3, 1801, Mr. James Kilborn was employed to perform divine service one-half the time, at a salary of £50. The society voted April 19, 1802: "That Selah Beckley, Benjamin Slater and Nathaniel Dickenson be a committee to view the ground Mr. JOHN GOODRICH 3d proposes to give for a glebe and burying ground, and make report to the next meeting." This proposed gift was undoubtedly accepted, and became the little graveyard which is now the only memorial of Christ Church visible to the passing traveler. Jonathan Gilbert was appointed warden of the parish April 18, 1808. Meetings were regularly held and recorded till April 23, 1810, when the record closes. The active life of the church was only 13 years. The church edifice was sold Nov. 17, 1826, to Jabesh Dickinson for \$115. The avails of the sale are said to have been turned over to the Episcopal church in New Britain. The causes of the failure of Christ Church are not far to seek. Its members were few and its taxes heavy. Preaching was intermittent, and it does not appear that there was ever a settled clergyman in the parish. When time had softened the disaffection of those who had left the church of their fathers, they returned to their first love, and left Christ Church practically disorganized, and it dissolved "like the baseless fabric of a vision." The little sequestered burial ground by the wayside, with neither church nor dwelling near, with mute eloquence appeals to our hearts, as eminently fit "to point a moral or adorn a tale." If the lives of its tenants were passed amid contention and strife, their graves rest in loneliness and peace.

*The Second Meeting House.*—The precise location of the second meeting house was determined by a vote passed Aug. 7, 1797: "That

the North West corner of the meeting house be set at a stake now set on the Green, and that the sills be ranged due North and South, East and West, with the Porch or Steeple at the East end." It was also voted: "That the Building Committee be impowered to take as many of the stones from under the old meeting house as can be spared without endangering the house, and that said stone be applied to the new house, if needed." This was done during the same month of August, for on Aug. 28th, the committee were directed "to proceed to erect and finish a meeting house at the stake set by the Assembly's Committee, where the foundation is now laid." The frame was now erected and undoubtedly covered for on Dec. 8, 1797, the society voted: "To the following persons, the sums annexed to their respective names, for labor and materials, etc., for the meeting house, viz.:

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
"To Joseph Camp,	2	0	6	Elisha Stoddard,	1	13	6
John Wright,	0	6	0	Josiah Griswold,	0	11	0
Levi Wells,	1	6	0	James Welles,	0	3	6
Michael Wright,	0	10	8	James Welles, Junr.,	0	15	0
Simon Welles,	2	5	0	James Blinn,	1	10	0
Fitch Andrus,	2	12	0	John Kirkham,	1	8	0
David Lowrey,	3	8	1	Ezekiel Atwood,	0	11	0
Ashbel Seymour,	1	14	10	Gad Deming,	0	4	0
Elias Saymour,	0	14	9	Levi Deming,	0	4	0
Jemima Welles	0	18	0	Enos Hunn,	0	6	0
Mary Kellogg,	1	1	0	Jonathan Stoddard,	2	9	6
Simon Kilborn,	1	6	9	Samuel Churchill,	1	15	0
Uzziel Lattimer,	2	13	9	Levi Churchill,	0	6	0
Joseph Churchill,	0	18	0	Justus Francis,	0	7	0
Eli Whaples,	0	15	0	Daniel Willard, Junr.	0	1	6
Francis Deming,	2	8	0	Solomon Churchill,	0	4	0
Amos Andrus,	5	4	8	Roswell Fox,	0	12	0
Joshua Belden, Junr.	4	7	9	Robert Francis,	1	4	0
Elijah Welles,	12	4	0	For the Steeple,	2	7	0
Martin Kellogg,	8	5	2				
				Total	72	11	11

There are 38 names in the above list, and a few of them are on the list of contributors to Christ Church already given. But none of them were ever identified in any manner with Christ Church, so far as appears by its records. Other members of the Newington Society are on neither list. It appears by a vote passed Feb. 12, 1798, that it took ELIZUR ANDRUS and three hands three days to "raise" the meeting house. It was voted, Aug. 30, 1798: "To proceed to finish the lower part of the meeting house now erecting, with the breast work of the gallery, as soon as may be, lathing and plastering excepted." On Oct. 15, 1798, it was voted: "To build pews in all the lower part of the



meeting house, instead of seats." And "that there be twenty pews in the square body of said house." On Nov. 12, 1798, it was voted: "To sell and dispose of the old meeting house in this society, and apply the avails of it towards defraying the charges of the new meeting house now building." Services must have been held in the new meeting house, although not finished, after the old one had been sold. An appropriation for sweeping the meeting house was made Dec. 3, 1798, for "the year ensuing." It was voted March 31, 1800: "That the Society Committee seat the meeting house and number the pews." The society voted March 23, 1801, to paint the meeting house, and on Feb. 7, 1803, laid a tax of "two cents and two mills on the dollar, to be laid on the list of 1802, to pay the Society's debts due towards building the meeting house."

*Mr. Belden's Resignation.*—Mr. Belden, having now seen the new meeting house finished and paid for, and being 79 years of age, and feeling unable to further perform the public labors of the ministry, made known his desire to desist therefrom, and preached for the last time November 6, 1803, after an active service of fifty-six years. In May, 1808, he removed to the house of his son Joshua, where he died July 23, 1813, at the age of 89 years. He prepared a charge to be delivered Jan. 16, 1805, at the ordination of Rev. Joab Brace, as colleague pastor. The words of advice therein given to his youthful associate are perhaps the best portrayal of his own conduct and preaching as a minister. "Let Christ and him crucified, the fallen, undone state of man and the way of the sinner's recovery and salvation through a Redeemer, and by the grace of the Holy Spirit, be the leading subjects of your preaching. Teach no other doctrine but what ministereth to godly edifying, not handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth as it is in Jesus, commend thyself to every man's conscience in the sight of God, not shunning to declare the whole counsel of God." "Let unfeigned love to Christ, zeal for his honor, and a compassionate concern for the salvation of immortal souls, be the governing principles of your whole conduct as a minister of Jesus." Surely these should be the governing principles of every true ambassador of Christ.

The three pastorates of Mr. Williams, Mr. Backus and Mr. Belden represent the formative period of the parish, and a stormy period it was. Controversy and contention over the two meeting houses, and over the boundaries of the parish continued almost from first to last. The French and Indian War, and the Revolutionary War made heavy drafts upon old Connecticut. Newington sent both officers and privates into



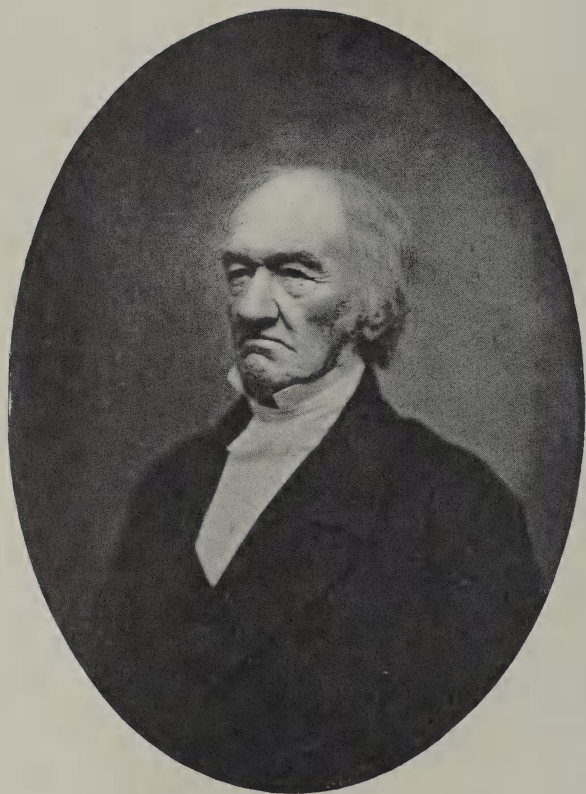
the battalions of the Commonwealth. Mr. Belden admitted to the communion of the church 169 members, and to the half-way covenant, 159 persons; but this practice was discontinued in 1775, as unauthorized by Scripture. The baptisms were 622; marriages, 336, and deaths, 443. Deacons were chosen as follows: JOSIAH WILLARD was appointed the third deacon, to succeed Dea. JABEZ WHITTLESEY, who removed to Bethlem in 1744. Dea. Willard died March 9, 1757. JOSHUA ANDRUS was elected April 20, 1757, died April 25, 1786. JOHN CAMP was chosen July 2, 1761, to succeed Dea. JOHN DEMING, who died May 1, 1761. Dea. Camp died July 27, 1782, and was succeeded by Dea. ELISHA STODDARD, who was elected Aug. 14, 1782, and died July 2, 1790. CHARLES CHURCHILL succeeded Dea. Andrus, Aug. 31, 1786, and died Oct. 29, 1802. JAMES WELLS was chosen the successor of Dea. Stoddard, Aug. 5, 1790, and resigned Oct. 29, 1818. DANIEL WILLARD succeeded Dea. Churchill, Feb. 24, 1803, and died Jan. 16, 1817. The deacons have always been chosen for life.

*The Temporary Supply of the Pulpit.*—In the interval between Nov. 6, 1803, and Oct. 7, 1804, when the Rev. Joab Brace began to preach, the pulpit was occupied temporarily by Rev. Elisha Yale, and Rev. Aaron Cleveland. Mr. Yale must have supplied the pulpit the first part of the interval above mentioned, and Mr. Cleveland the last part. At the ordination of Mr. Brace, Jan. 16, 1805, Mr. Cleveland was present as a member of the ordaining council. He had a son William, born Dec. 20, 1770, and he had a son, Richard Falley Cleveland, who graduated at Yale in 1824, and was the father of President Grover Cleveland. In the Hartford "*Courant*" for July 18, 1804, is an account of a fourth of July celebration in Newington, in which Mr. Cleveland took a prominent part. It is as follows:

"Wethersfield, Society of Newington, July 7, 1804.

"The anniversary of American Independence was celebrated in this place under the presidency of Colonel LEVI LUSK and Captain ABASALOM WELLES. Captain ROBERT FRANCIS, with his military company in uniform, attended on the occasion. At 2 o'clock p. m., the inhabitants assembled at the meeting house, where social prayer and praise were performed, and a sermon suitable to the occasion was delivered by the Rev. AARON CLEVELAND from Mark III, 24: 'If a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.' The sermon being over, the Sons of Liberty marched in procession, Captain Francis and company in front, to the house of Mrs. Blin, where a handsome dinner was provided. After a temperate regalement, a num-





I am very kindly & affectionately  
*Yours*  
*Brace*

ber of patriotic toasts were drank, with the discharge of musquetry. Their dispersion at 6 o'clock witnessed their decorum and good order."

We can well believe that the minister attended the "regalement," and drank to the toasts with the others, and that they all dispersed with "decorum and good order," for those days, and that he afterwards wrote this account for the *Courant*. What might be regarded as a "temperate regalement" on such a patriotic occasion at that time, when every town had its distilleries of cider brandy, might be very differently regarded now. But they should be judged by the standard of that day, as to "decorum and good order," and the church records of cases of discipline for intemperance show what that standard was before the temperance reform was inaugurated.

The *fourth minister* of the Congregational church in Newington was the Rev. JOAB BRACE, D. D. He was the son of Zenas and Mary (*Skinner*) Brace of West Hartford, born June 13, 1781; he graduated at Yale College, 1804, in a class distinguished for its great men, among whom may be mentioned John C. Calhoun, John Pierpont, Royal R. Hinman and Prof. Bennet Tyler. In 1808, he received the degree of Master of Arts, and in 1854, from Williams College, that of Doctor of Divinity. He was licensed to preach Sept. 24, 1804, and preached his first sermon at Newington, Oct., 7, 1804, and continued to preach there till his ordination January 16, 1805, having pursued his theological studies during his academic course. He married January 21, 1805, Lucy Collins of West Hartford.—See *Brace*, Vol. II.

From the date of his ordination, Dr. Brace continued in the active duties of pastor over the same church for just fifty years, when he voluntarily resigned lest he should become a burden to his people by outstaying his usefulness. He preached his farewell sermon January 16, 1855, and laid down the harness which he had worn for half a century. This sermon, printed by vote of the society, is an interesting review of his life work. He died April 20, 1861, at Pittsfield, Mass., æ. 80, at the residence of his son-in-law, Rev. Dr. John Todd, who preached his funeral sermon at Newington, April 24, 1861, where he was buried, at his own request, by the side of his wife, who died Nov. 16, 1854, aged 72.

The active pastorates of Dr. Brace and Rev. Joshua Belden cover a period of one hundred and six years and their united ages one hundred and sixty-nine years. It may be doubted that the annals of our New England churches furnish another instance of a parish with two

successive pastorates of such length. The mortal remains of these two pastors fitly rest among those of their parishoners, who in life received their faithful and loving services for so many years.

At the commencement of the ministry of Dr. Brace the church numbered 51 members, at its close 170. He admitted to the church 231, baptized 401, buried 453, and married 257 couples.

He always felt a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of the young people. A Sunday school was established by a few of the church members in 1819, and has ever since continued. The union of neighboring Sunday schools was established here in 1832. He had for many years a weekly meeting in the church for the instruction of the youth of both sexes, in a kind of Bible Class, expounding the New Testament in regular course, requesting each one present to read a verse and asking the reader questions upon it, going around the circle at least once at each meeting. His salary was never over \$500 a year, with no vacation. He supplied the deficiency of his salary by keeping a private school in which he fitted boys for college. He also tilled his own farm, and his garden was the model in the place. He was a respectable scholar in the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages, the latter of which he acquired after he was 45 years of age. In personal appearance he was tall and commanding, eyes dark and piercing, benignant features, venerable and dignified in his later days, with manners simple and unaffected. He was a "living epistle" of goodness and righteousness, "known and read of all men." So devoted was he to his high calling and so great was his affection to his people that, in his farewell discourse, he said to them: "Now, my people, if you should rise up in a body here today, and propose this one question to me, viz.: "If we should all go back to our youth again, would you, with all your experience, come and be our minister again?" What would I say? If I were to go back and begin my life anew, I would choose the Christian ministry for my work, and for the joy of my life. Lord Jesus, accept me. 'Would I come and be a minister of Newington, again?' *Yes, yes, my brethren, I think I can say that I would, and spend the half-century with you.*" On the part of the people it may be added that they regarded him as their father in spiritual things, and called him by the dear name of "Father Brace," and those who had sat under his preaching the longest, and knew him best, loved him most, and would the most readily have taken him back to their hearts again for another half-century. It has been truly said that:

"Grateful Newingtonians will cherish and maintain

The name and fame of *Father Brace* while memory doth remain."



On Oct. 27, 1850, he communicated his intention to resign Dec. 1, 1851, as he then would be seventy years of age, but the society voted, Nov. 5, 1851, that he be requested to remain until he should have completed the term of fifty years of pastoral service, and he acceded to this wish of his people.

*Dr. Brace's Ordination.*—The usual fast previous to the ordination of Dr. Brace was observed Jan. 9, 1805, when Rev. Joseph Washburn of Farmington preached the sermon, on the text: "Brethren, pray for us."

*The Members of the Church, January 16, 1805.*—Eunice Wolcott, James and Abigail Wells, Martha Wells, Elijah Wells, Hannah Kellogg, Robert and Abigail Wells, Daniel Willard, Levi and Martha Hurlbut, Mercy Churchill, Elizabeth Romans, Jemima (Kellogg) Wells, Justus and Lois Francis, Tabitha Andrus, Mabel Webster, Dorothy Stoddard, Octavia Belden, Abel and Rhoda Andrus, Sarah Rockwell, Elizabeth Seymour, Jerusha Seymour, Mary Atwood, Anne Deming, Abigail Griswold, Alma Wells, Honor Blinn, Lucy Wells, Hannah Andrus, Clara Wells, Mary Kellogg, Anna Camp, Levi Deming, Ashbel Seymour, Mary Lowrey, Jemima Kellogg, Joshua and Dorothy Belden, Francis Coslet, Oledine Andrus, Eunice Seymour, David and Lucy Lowrey, Roger Hurlbut, Lydia Andrus, Esther Latimer, Anna Andrus, Lois Andrus. Fifty-one in all, of whom thirteen only were males, and thirty-eight females.

*Deacons of the church*, during the ministry of Dr. Brace, were: Dea. LEVI DEMING, chosen Oct. 29, 1818, and died Jan. 1, 1847; Dea. ORIGEN WELLS, chosen Oct. 29, 1818, and resigned Nov. 29, 1847. One of these two deacons filled the vacancy made by the death of Dea. Daniel Willard, and the other the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Dea. James Wells. Dea. JEDEDIAH DEMING was chosen July 1, 1847, to succeed Dea. Levi Deming; he died May 4, 1868. Dea. JEREMIAH SEYMOUR was chosen Nov. 29, 1847, to succeed Dea. Origen Welles, he died April 1, 1867.

*The Academy.*—During Dr. Brace's ministry, schools were kept regularly in the several districts. On Aug. 6, 1832, the Middle school-house was struck by lightning, but not greatly injured. School-dames were employed more and more as the years rolled on. Miss ANNA WELLES was a teacher in the Middle district for many years. In the meantime there was a growing desire for a school of a higher order, on the part of those who were able and willing to give their children a better education than the common schools afforded. At a meeting of

those friendly to the project, held January 6, 1829, the constitution of "The Newington Education Society" was adopted. The sum of five dollars constituted a share. Nearly \$300 was subscribed by 25 persons. At a meeting held Nov. 6, 1829, it was agreed to build an Academy near the residence of Mrs. Mary Kellogg (afterwards the dwelling house of Dea. H. A. Whittelsey), across the street running east and west, and southeast of said dwelling house. Martin Kellogg, Jeremiah Seymour and Dositheus Hubbard were the building committee. The Academy was raised Nov. 21, and finished January 2, 1830, and the first school was held therein two days thereafter. The first officers of this Education Society were Gen. Martin Kellogg, *chairman*; William Deming, *clerk*; Dositheus Hubbard, *treasurer*; Daniel Willard, Joseph Camp and Roger Welles, *trustees*. A school was kept there for a quarter of a century, and was the means of giving a higher education to many who would otherwise have finished their studies at the common schools. The teachers were Messrs. FOSTER, COOLEY, EMERSON, WARNER, HOYT, GILLETT, MARVIN, WALES, KILBOURN, SANFORD J. HORTON (1841-2), FISHER, SESSIONS, RIPLEY, LINSLEY, ATWOOD and WELLES. As the enterprise was a private one, and largely for the better education of the children of those who were its promoters, when that object was accomplished the school was no longer sustained, and even the building has disappeared. The last meeting of the company was held in November, 1854.

*Changes in the Second Meeting House.*—After Mr. Brace's ordination, few changes were made for the first few years. Necessary repairs, painting, etc., etc., seem to have been the only expenses and these (at rate of one cent on the dollar) were paid by taxes laid on the grand list of the inhabitants, which system of raising money, however, was changed in November, 1819. It was believed by some "that coercive measures in matters of religion are not warranted by scriptural precepts." The pews were sold for one year for the first time at a meeting held Nov. 23, 1819, and that practice has since obtained. It would seem that not enough money was raised by this method the first year, and a committee was appointed Nov. 6, 1820, "to converse with Mr. Brace, and see if he will be willing to relinquish a part of his salary." He acceded to this request and agreed to relinquish fifty dollars of his salary for the next year. As no further action of this kind appears of record, it is to be presumed that the money was afterwards raised without calling on the pastor for assistance. The first *church bell* was put into position Feb. 9, 1828. It weighed 506 pounds, and cost 40

cents a pound, or \$202.40, being brought from Albany, N. Y., by Mr. Roger Welles in his own team. At a meeting held Nov. 2, 1828, the bell was directed to be rung not only on the Sabbath, but on week days at 12 o'clock noon, and at 9 in the evening. The first allusion to a *stove* in the church occurs in the record of a meeting held Nov. 24, 1829, when the committee were "directed to procure sheet iron suitable to secure the floor under the stove from fire."

At a meeting held April 5, 1837, a committee of three was appointed "to draw a plan of such alterations for the meeting house, and report at the next meeting." At a meeting held a week later it was voted: "That the committee was directed to apply the sum of \$800, now raised by subscriptions, and whatever more may hereafter be raised to the making of said alterations." Oliver Brainard to make the repairs at a cost of \$832.86.

Among these repairs were the following: The square pews were replaced by slips. The tall spire that stood upon eight posts was taken down, Aug. 4, 1837, and the open bell-deck covered by an additional story. The two outside doors were closed on each side of the tower style, and new posts put under the galleries. The gallery stairs were lowered and lessened in width, and supplied with new seats. In place of the high pulpit was built a lower one in more modern style, and new posts put under the galleries. The gallery stairs were taken out of the porch and rebuilt in the corners of the audience room, a part of which was taken into the vestibule, for that purpose. The seat in front of the pulpit, occupied by the deacons at communion service, was removed, with the hinged shelf in front, used for the memorial bread and wine. The church was formally re-dedicated, Aug. 23, 1837. Dr. Brace preached in the forenoon from Haggai II, 9: "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of Hosts; and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of Hosts." There were many in the audience whose memories easily spanned the forty years that had intervened since the "former house" had given place to the "latter house," and who must have compared the two houses greatly to the "glory of this latter house." And as they called to mind the bitter contest over the site of the "latter house," which had caused such estrangement among the brethren of the same fold, they must have been devoutly thankful that in the flight of years the Lord had brought a peace which seemed to be an assured prophecy of peace in the rolling years to come, a prophecy which has since been fulfilled. Dr. Todd preached in the evening from Hebrews, XIII, 8: "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day and forever."

In November, 1838, the Society's Committee was directed to purchase *two stoves* for the use of the meeting house, and dispose of the old stove and pipe.

On Sept. 1, 1841, a committee was appointed "*to dispose of the old bell, and to purchase a new one,*" which was to weigh "from 700 to 800 lbs." This *second bell* was raised to its place Dec. 9, 1841, and weighed 816 pounds—largely paid for by subscriptions. In 1849, stone steps were erected in front of the house in place of the former wooden ones. A second enlargement of the church, ordered in 1853, resulted in improvements thus described by the chairman of the building committee, Dea. Levi S. Deming, in an address delivered at Newington, Oct. 2, 1897, on the 100th Anniversary of the church building. "A new frame surrounded the tower in front, and brought out the corners of the building to its present form and size. The part of the tower left above the roof was newly covered, and another section added to the height. The entire building was newly covered also with cornices and casings and clapboards, without removing the old. New window frames and large glass were used. The edifice outside had the appearance of being entirely new. The inside improvement was equally great. The windows were closed in the west end wall, and the large timbers of the frame concealed by a level surface, with only one arched panel behind the pulpit. The projecting posts of the side walls were hewed back, and all walls and overhead ceilings covered by new lath and plastering, but yet without removing the old. The east gallery was moved still farther back, and the audience room very much enlarged in that direction. A handsome breastwork and turned posts completed the gallery front. A very good pattern of frescoe work covered all walls and ceiling, giving to the room as finished the appearance of one newly built, on the inside as well as outside. The additional covering within and without greatly strengthened the building."

*Officers in the Militia.*—Some officers of the militia have already been mentioned. Others that succeeded them from Newington were Captains JOSIAH WILLARD, CHARLES CHURCHILL, MARTIN KELLOGG, 3D., ROBERT WELLES, SR., ROBERT WELLES, JR., JONATHAN STODDARD, LEVI LUSK, ABSALOM WELLS, ROBERT FRANCIS, JONATHAN STODDARD, JR., MARTIN KELLOGG, 5TH, JAMES DEMING, JOSEPH CAMP, SIMEON STODDARD, DANIEL WILLARD, ERASTUS LATIMER, ERASTUS FRANCIS, SELDEN DEMING, DANIEL H. WILLARD, ALBERT S. HUNN, HENRY LUCE, and perhaps others.

Of these Levi Lusk, Martin Kellogg, 5th, and Joseph Camp, became Colonels, and the first two became successively Brigadier and Major





NEWINGTON (CONN.) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

*By Courtesy of Hon. E. S. Welles.*





Generals. Brig-Gen. Levi Lusk served at New London in the War of 1812-5, from Aug. 18 to Aug. 26, 1814, and Lieut. Joseph Camp served there in the same war from Aug. 3, to Sept. 16, 1813. Two small drafts were made from the Newington Company, and stationed at Groton to defend New London, and the frigate "Macedonian," and the sloop-of-war "Hornet," from any attack that might be made from the British fleet on the coast.

*The Methodist Episcopal Church.*—In 1834, the few Methodists resident in the town were joined by some few disaffected members of the Congregational church, and on Nov. 28, 1834, Mr. Zaccheus Brown conveyed a rood of land, at the northwest corner of his home lot, to Amon Richards, Robert Francis, Jr., and Hervey Francis, "in trust for the use and benefit of the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church." On Dec. 1, 1834, the cellar was dug, and foundation laid and the frame of a meeting house was raised April 4, 1835, the building dedicated June 11, 1835. It was 26 by 36 feet in size, without steeple or bell, and faced west with two front doors. Public worship was maintained there for some years. Its Sunday school numbered 40 scholars in 1837. The organization did not, however, attain any permanent prosperity, and the site being sold Dec. 13, 1860, the meeting house was then removed to the corner northeast of the Congregational church, and again sold in 1870, and devoted to private uses. The assets and members went to the Methodist church in New Britain. Thus was repeated on a small scale the history of "Christ Church," already related.

*The Congregational Sunday School.*—This Sunday school began, in 1818, by the voluntary efforts of some young ladies, who taught classes of scholars, without any formal organization, or recognition by the church. The names of some of these pioneers were PRUDENCE KELLOGG, HARRIET BENHAM, JULIA CHURCHILL, ALMA CAMP and perhaps MARY BRACE.

Miss Julia Churchill's journal records the formal establishment of the school on June 20, 1819. A Sabbath school was established with four little children as a class in her charge, increased by August to seven, viz.: Lucinda Blinn, Jane Hooper, Lucinda Wells, Maria Hubbard, Catherine Wells, Lucretia Andrus and Fidelia Stoddard.

The school held only summer sessions as there was no way of warming the church in winter.

In the summer of 1820, the organization of the school was made more formal, indicating a growing recognition of its value. Dea. LEVI

DEMING was chosen *Leader*. The writer remembers him in his old age. He was tall, his locks were gray, his voice pitched upon a high key, and his countenance grave, as if religion was a stern reality to him. There was an odor of sanctity about him which impressed the youthful imagination with a sense of awe. He was a good man when good men were few, and a deacon when to be a deacon was morally heroic. He died Jan. 1, 1847, aged 74. Some of the teachers at that time were ORIGEN WELLS, DANIEL WILLARD, WILLIAM KIRKHAM, ALLEN STODDARD, JOSIAH ATWOOD, JOHN FRANCIS, WILLIAM DEMING and HIRAM E. STODDARD, besides the female teachers already mentioned.

Bible helps for the scholars at that time were their own inquiring minds and ready memories. They learned passages and texts of scripture, without question book or commentary. The school was held at noon, between the services, and no singing book was used, and singing was not introduced for many years. In the summer of 1821, the Sunday school re-organized. Mr. Nettleton, the famous evangelist, preached in Newington in the months of January, February, March and April, 1821. On May 6th, forty-seven new members joined the church, and ten more on July 1st. Many of these were men in the full strength of manhood, with their wives, as well as children, who afterwards became the pillars of the church. Mr. Daniel Willard was chosen superintendent, and William Deming his assistant and secretary. For thirteen years Mr. Willard was the acting superintendent, and Mr. Deming his efficient assistant. For five years more, until 1839, Mr. Willard was the nominal, but Mr. Deming the real superintendent, as Mr. Willard was engaged in travelling during that period.

The National Society, called "The American Sunday School Union," was formed at Philadelphia, May 25, 1824. The State Society, called "The Connecticut Sunday School Union," was organized in October, 1824. The County Society, called "The Hartford County Sabbath School Union," was organized at Hartford, June 14, 1827. The County Society was auxiliary to the State Society, and the latter to the National Society. Our Sunday school, in April, 1826, formed itself into a "Sabbath School Society," auxiliary, at first, to the State Society.

The third annual report of the Newington Sabbath School Society is found in the second annual report of "The Hartford County Sabbath School Union," presented at their meeting held in Hartford on Wednesday evening, April 8, 1829, and indicates a gratifying progress. It is, in part, as follows: "This school was commenced in the spring of 1826, and embraces a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent,

Librarian, 24 Teachers and 118 Scholars. The number of volumes in the library is 200."

The winter of 1828-9, referred to in this report, was doubtless the first winter in which the church was heated by a stove. "Judson's Questions" is the first question book mentioned as in use. During the year 1829, fifteen persons united with the church. These results may be attributed, in part certainly, to the existence of the Sunday school. "The Wethersfield and Berlin Sunday School Union" was organized at Newington, 6 Sept., 1832.

The Sunday schools which formed this "Union" were those of Wethersfield, Rocky Hill and Newington, all of the then Town of Wethersfield, and those of Kensington, New Britain and Worthington, all of the then Town of Berlin. During the first few years of the existence of this union, Mr. DANIEL WILLARD and Mr. WILLIAM DEMING were prominent and leading members in its meetings. Mr. Willard was the president in the years 1834-5-6.

In 1839, Mr. Willard resigned his official position in the Sunday school. He must be awarded the high praise of having been a finished Christian gentleman. His scrupulous courtesy was not a mere formal politeness, but was accompanied with genial and heartfelt sincerity. The grasp of his hand indicated the warmth of his feelings. His education was not finished when he arrived at maturity, but he was ever learning and imparting his knowledge. His kind manners and pleasant countenance endeared him to all who knew him. In the latter years of his life he compiled a mass of materials relating to the history of Newington and its families, of great interest. He died April 7, 1868, aged 84.

In August, 1839, Dea. ORIGEN WELLS was appointed superintendent and held the position till about 1843. Dea. Wells was a very good man, inclined to be self-distrustful and retiring, underrating himself more than was his just desert. He spoke in a plaintive tone of voice, bewailing his often infirmities. He had charge of the communion table for many years. He died Dec. 23, 1868, aged 85.

In 1843, Dea. JEDEDIAH DEMING was chosen superintendent and held that position several years. From 1847 to 1854, there is some doubt whether he or Mr. Levi S. Deming was the superintendent.

Dea. JEDEDIAH DEMING, chosen a deacon July 1, 1847, was a man of mild manners but firm principles. Thoughtful and careful in forming his opinions, he could always be relied upon to stand by his convictions. As he was not hasty in his judgment, he was generally right. Not obtrusive or self-seeking, he did not shrink from responsibility,

however unpleasant, if it was in the line of duty. Irreproachable in his own character, he was charitable to the failings of others. It could be truthfully said of him that he was "not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." He died May 4, 1868, aged 77.

Dea. JEREMIAH SEYMOUR was another deacon on the roll of Sunday school workers. He had that uniform courtesy and kindliness of deportment in his intercourse with others which reminded one of the "gentlemen of the old school." He always could be relied upon to do his full share in sustaining the Church and Sunday school, both financially and otherwise. He died April 1, 1867, aged 80.

Indeed the deacons of the church have been workers in the Sunday school from its institution to the present time. The officers of our church have ever realized its value and helped the Sunday school with their presence and prayers. Dr. Brace, too, was always faithful to its interests. In the record of a meeting of the S. S. Union, held at New Britian Sept. 6, 1853, occurs this characteristic entry by Dea. Andrews, its secretary: "An extraordinary prayer by Rev. J. Brace, Newington." No other such entry appears in that book of records. Dea. Andrews must have been astonished at the wonderful power and gift of Dr. Brace in addressing the throne of grace. In Dec., 1854, the Sunday school presented an easy chair to Dr. Brace, as a slight memorial of their affection, and on New Year's Day, 1855, they met in a body at his house, and through their superintendent, presented an address and received his blessing. Many must still remember the occasion, his feeling remarks and his closing prayer.

Dea. LEVI S. DEMING was chosen superintendent in 1847, and perhaps before that time, and continued in the office till 1858. He was also chosen president of the S. S. Union, Sept. 4, 1855, and by annual reelection till Sept. 11, 1866, when he, and Dea. Alfred Andrews of N. Britian, who had been the secretary from the beginning, both declined a reappointment. Dea. Deming removed to Middletown in April, 1869, and is still living.

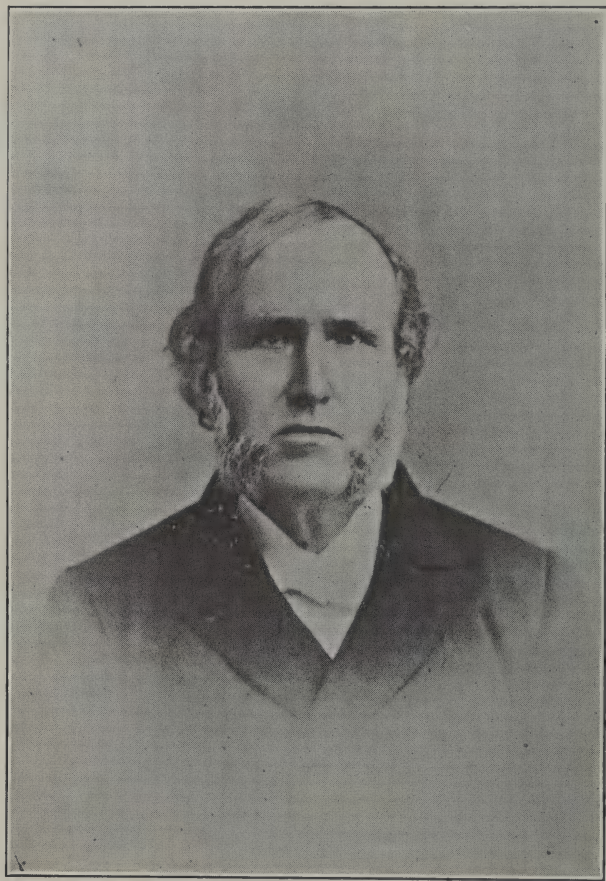
April 5, 1854, died ELISHA WHAPLES, JR., aged 53. He was long the librarian. Genial in his temperament, and hearty in his manners, he was greatly lamented.

Mrs. LUCY COLLINS BRACE, wife of the pastor, died Nov. 16, aged 72½ years. She was a leader in the church, in the Ladies' Society, and in the Sunday school until almost the close of her husband's ministry.

During the year 1858, MARCUS W. STODDARD was the superintendent. A man of strong moral convictions, and firm in maintaining them.







REV. WILLIAM P. AIKEN.

Though he was outspoken in freely expressing his opinions, yet as he was known to be sincere, they were always received with respect, even by those who differed from him. He died Dec. 5, 1865, aged 51.

In 1859, Dea. CHARLES K. ATWOOD became superintendent, and continued in office till he resigned, Sept. 7, 1863, when JOSEPH J. FRANCIS was appointed, who remained at the head of the school till his resignation, Dec. 31, 1868. He was succeeded by ROGER WELLES, who held the position till he resigned, January 4, 1873, when JOHN S. KIRKHAM was chosen, who continued till January 2, 1880, when JOSHUA BELDEN was chosen, who is still in charge. A new chapel was erected in 1895.

The first collection ever reported as taken up in the school, was in 1860, amount \$13. From that time the contributions have steadily increased, until in the eleven months ending June 30, 1900, the offerings were \$212. Number in the school 224, officers 8, teachers 20. But money has not been the only contribution. Its members have consecrated their lives to the defence of our common country. In 1862, Mr. Atwood reported that the school furnished 12 soldiers in the army, and 11 in 1863. Two were martyrs to the cause, HENRY W. DAVIS and EUGENE B. WILLARD. The former was killed at Sharpsburg, Md., Sept. 17, 1862. The latter died at Arlington, Va., April 21, 1863. Three members were in the recent Spanish War, ROGER WELLES, JR., in the navy, and CHARLES S. FRANCIS and ALFRED B. PIMM in the army.

REV. WILLIAM POPE AIKEN, *Pastor 1857-1867, fifth minister* of Newington, was born at Fairhaven, Mass., July 9, 1825, the second son of Lemuel Smith and Sarah (*Coffin*) Aiken. He fitted for college at Monson Academy, and graduated at Yale College in the famous Class of 1853, ranking among the foremost of his class in scholarship. After graduation he studied theology, and acted as tutor in his Alma Mater from 1855 to 1857. In the early part of 1856, he supplied the pulpit at Newington, a few times, and the church on March 3, 1856, voted to call him to become colleague pastor with Rev. Dr. Brace, and the terms of settlement and the date of his ordination were duly arranged. His salary was to be \$900 a year, and his ordination was fixed for January 15, 1857, and the day of fasting and prayer was appointed for January 9, 1857, when the public exercises were conducted by Rev. Samuel J. Andrews, assisted by Rev. Frederick Gridley.

Mr. Aiken discharged the duties of pastor for ten years, endearing himself to his people by the high qualities of his mind and heart. They reluctantly yielded to his resignation, in the summer of 1867. After

his departure he became principal of the academy at Groton, Mass., for two years, and pastor of the Congregational church at Vergennes, Vt., for three years. Owing to ill health he spent his last years in Rutland, Vt., where he died March 29, 1884. His death was commemorated by the Church of Newington, in a special memorial service, held 20 Apl., 1884. His wife died in Rutland, Vt., July 14, 1891. During Mr. Aiken's pastorate the admissions to the church were 54; baptisms, 63; marriages, 31; deaths, 109. The deacons chosen were RUFUS STODDARD, May 3, 1867; died January 30, 1870; LEVI S. DEMING, May 3, 1867, removed to Guilford, in April, 1869. The former was chosen to fill the place made vacant by the death of Dea. Jeremiah Seymour, while the latter was elected as a third deacon. The church voted unanimously Oct. 30, 1862, to withdraw from the "Hartford South Consociation," with which it had been connected for many years. The pastor and church sympathized with Dr. Bushnell, rather than with the "Consociation" in their "unpleasantness." Dr. Bushnell and Mr. Aiken were warm personal friends, and the former often visited the latter in Newington.

*The War of the Rebellion.*—In the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865, Newington furnished forty-nine volunteers and nine substitutes for the Connecticut Volunteer Regiments, as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Company &amp; Reg't.</i>		<i>Enlistment.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
John Earnshaw	Co. B.	1st. Reg't.	April 19, 1861.	Hon. Disch. July 31, 1861.
H. Hudson Stoddard,	" I,	5th. "	July 22, 1861.	Disch. Disability. Dec. 5, 1862.
Jacob Bollerer,	" G,	6th. "	Sept. 4, 1861.	Disch: Sept. 11, 1864.
Lewis W. Dunham,	" G,	6th. "	Sept. 4, 1861.	Transf. to Invalid Corps.
John Richards,	" C,	7th. "	Sept. 6. 1861.	Must. out, July 20, 1865.
Nathan G. Barnum,	" A,	8th, "	Sept. 25, 1861.	Rejected, Nov. 2, 1861.
William Hubbard,	" B,	7th. "	Sept. 7, 1861.	Died Oct. 8, 1862.
Patrick McAloon,	Co. G.	9th. Reg't.	Sept. 27, 1861.	Died, Aug. 14, 1862.
Michael Halliman,	" G,	9th. "	Nov. 25, 1861.	Disch. Oct. 29, 1864.
Elmore F. Jenks,	" D,	10th. "	Oct. 1, 1861.	Disch. Oct. 7, 1864.
Frederick Richards,	" E,	10th. "	Nov. 1, 1861.	Disch. Nov. 1, 1864.
Henry W. Davis,	" K,	11th. "	Nov. 25, 1861.	Killed, Sept. 17, 1862.
Samuel Steel,	" K,	11th, "	Dec. 11, 1861.	Disch. Disability, Apr. 14, 1862.
George H. Whaples,	" K,	11th. "	Dec. 13, 1861.	Deserted, June 3, 1864.
Edwin B. Tobey,	" H,	11th. "	Nov. 20, 1861.	Transf. to Vet. Res. Corps, March 31, 1864.

Henry Rising,	" D, 11th.	"	Nov. 12, 1861.	Killed, Sept. 17, 1862.
George T. Dickson,	" C, 12th.	"	Nov. 20, 1861.	Must. out. Aug. 12, 1863.
Abel Steele,	" I, 12th.	"	Jan'y. 27, 1862.	Disch. Disability, Apr. 5, 1862.
Newell Dow,	" A, 13th.	"	Dec. 31, 1861.	Disch. Disability, June 1, 1862.
Patrick Reynolds,	" A, 13th.	"	Jan. 22, 1862.	Deserted, Aug. 27, 1864.
Sylvester W. Steele,	" F, 14th.	"	July 18, 1862.	Killed, Dec. 13, 1862.
Austin N. Steele,	" F, 14th.	"	Aug. 7, 1862.	Disch. Disability, Jan. 24, 1863.
Henry N. Whaples,	" K, 20th.	"	Aug. 15, 1862.	Must. out. June 13, 1863.
Robert W. Joiner,	" G, 20th.	"	Aug. 15, 1862.	Must. Out. June 13, 1863.
Samuel Richards,	" C, 7th.	"	Feb. 15th, 1862,	Must. out. July 20, 1863.
Almon J. Hart,	" B, 21st.	"	Aug. 18, 1862.	Must. out. June 16, 1863.
John D. Griswold,	" E, 22d.	"	Aug. 21, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
Edward Harker,	" E, 22d.	"	Aug. 21, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
Henry Lindon,	" E, 22d.	"	Aug. 22, 1862.	Dis. Disability. Jan. 16, 1863.
Serg't. Charles L. Willard,	" B, 22d.	"	July 27, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
Eugene B. Willard,	" B, 22d.	"	Aug. 28, 1862.	Died, Apr. 21, 1863.
Unni P. Blinn,	" E, 22d.	"	Aug. 27, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
George N. Downes,	" B, 22d.	"	Aug. 29, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
James A. Smith,	" B, 22d.	"	Aug. 30, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
Daniel K. Bennett,	" B, 22d.	"	Aug. 29, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
Lafayette Gladding,	" B, 22d.	"	Aug. 30, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
George S. Deming,	" B, 22d.	"	Aug. 30, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
Gaylord Morgan,	" B, 22d.	"	Aug. 30, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
Joseph Whaples,	" B, 22d.	"	Aug. 30, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
Anthony Wright,	" B, 22d.	"	Aug. 30, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
John L. Osgood,	Co. D, 22d.	Reg't.	Aug. 30, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
Edward P. Joyner,	" D, 22d.	"	Sept. 1, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.
William E. Quigley,	" E, 22d.	"	Sept. 9, 1862.	Hon. Dis. July 7, 1863.



Oliver L. Steele,	" A, 25th. "	Aug. 25, 1862.	Hon. Dis. 1863.	Aug. 26,
Edward Steele,	Heavy Artiller, Co. G, 1st, Reg't.	June 1, 1863.	Must. out. 1865.	Sept. 25,
Azariah Gladden,	Heavy Artillery. Co. A, 1st. Reg't.	Jan. 5, 1864.	Deserted, 1865.	Aug. 2,
Joseph French,	Enlisted in the Regular Army.			
George Gallagher,	" " " " "			
William G. Huntley,	" " " " "	Navy.		

The following persons furnished substitutes: Charles K. Atwood, Jared Starr, John S. Kilbourn, Edgar Spaulding, Thomas Marksley, Reuben C. Osborn, Franklin C. Latimer, Henry M. Robbins, Charles S. Francis.

*Industries.*—There are still three *mill* privileges which have been occupied as sites where mills have been operated by water power; one in the center, one at the north end, and one near the west boundary line. The first was the sawmill built in 1678, at the foot of the pond, on Piper's Brook, as already related. When the sawmill had exhausted the primeval woods, and therefore had ended its career, a grist mill was built on the site by Israel and Joseph Kelsey of Berlin, and Unni Robbins of Newington. This was afterwards destroyed by fire as have been several other mills and factories at that place. A distillery was carried on there for some years by Roger Welles, a son of Gen. Welles, where cider brandy was manufactured, until the Washingtonian temperance movement touched the conscience of the owner and he abandoned the business. A son of his, Edwin Welles, afterwards manufactured there cotton batting and edged tools for a few years. This site is now occupied as a paper mill, using both water and steam power.

The first *grist mill* was built at the north end, on Wood River, as early as 1720, by Dea. Josiah Willard. This was succeeded by another built by Martin Kellogg, 4th, and Daniel Willard, 2d. Its long mill dam was several times partially carried away by the freshets to which that river is subject. About 1838, a satinete factory was built there by Gen. Martin Kellogg, Daniel Willard, 3d, and John M. Belden. It did a prosperous business during the War of the Rebellion in furnishing cloth for the Union soldiers. It also was burned a few years ago, and the site has since been vacant.

The third site, near the west boundary, was first occupied by a grist mill built by Benjamin Adkins. This was followed by another built

by Joseph and James Churchill, and afterwards owned and operated by Martin Luther, until recent years. It is now disused and gone to decay. East of this site a brick kiln has been carried on for several years by the Messrs. Dennis, near the New York and New England Railroad, and a station has been established there called "Clayton." In former days numerous *cider mills* were scattered throughout the society, but in the march of events, they have been left behind, and exist only in ruins, if at all. There was once a *tavern*, located at the south end on the Turnpike, where Gen. Levi Lusk thought it was his religious duty to sell good liquor, but he died Sept. 16, 1824, and his hostelry did not long survive him. It has no successor. The Town of Newington has always voted "*No License*." The principal industry has at all times been the tilling of the soil. A century ago there was some commerce with the West Indies. The products of the soil were carried to the Connecticut River at Wethersfield or Rocky Hill, and exported by vessels, especially onions, bunched by the nimble fingers of the farmers' wives and daughters. Thousands of these "ropes" were sent abroad, and molasses, sugar and rum were brought in return cargoes, to sweeten and cheer the lives of our hard-worked fathers. When the minister called on his parishioners in discharge of his pastoral duty, the decanter on the sideboard was a welcome testimony of respect for him and of their love and religion. Our soil is well adapted to the cultivation of all the ordinary farm crops. Hartford and New Britain have grown to be markets of easy access, while two railroads furnish transportation to those more remote. An electric railway between Hartford and New Britain runs through the center of Newington, greatly to the convenience of the people. Our town enters upon the new century with prospects brighter than ever before in its history.

*Legacies and Gifts to Newington Church and Town.*—These have been numerous. We mention them briefly in order:

1. That of Miss Mary (daughter of Dea. Josiah) Willard, 1759, for "the improvement of schooling," £80; this was contested by a sister living in Massachusetts, but the action of the General Assembly finally secured it to the Newington Society, after a delay of 13 years.

2. The *John Deming* legacy, 1761, of £20 "to be improved for the lasting use and benefit of said church." This, amounting to \$66.67, was put out on loan, and its income applied to the expense of the communion table.

3. The *Jedediah Deming* legacy, 1787, of £60 "lawful silver money (accounting Spanish milled dollars at 6s. each)" for procuring "a sufficient quantity of *good orthodox books*, of Calvinistical principles,"

as a library for use of said Society—to be under the care and direction of the deacons of the church. This bequest was the foundation of the *Charity Library* (almost entirely religious books) of which Simon Welles was for many years, librarian. It no longer exists, though a few of the books may still be found in private families.

4. The *Rosanna Deming* legacy, 1821, mostly in real estate, valued at about \$3,000—but which legacy, inasmuch as it cut off a nephew, her only legal heir, was compromised, at the Society's suggestion, by payment to the Society of \$500. It was to be used as a perquisite to the ministry, "aside from his salary."

5. The *Amos Andrus* legacy, 1826, of certain lands in Wethersfield Township, inventoried at \$11,000, "for the Society's use, either in building or repairing a place of worship, or for the support of the gospel." For more concerning this Amos Andrus, see the *Andrus Gen.*, in Vol. II.

6. The *Prudence Hall* legacy, 1873, of real estate, valued at a little over \$1,000, to the Ecclesiastical Society, subject to its paying expenses of her last illness and funeral, and of settlement of her estate, and the erection of a fitting monument over her remains. From this legacy a parsonage house was erected, and the former house changed into a barn.

7. The gift in 1857, of a fine \$1,500 pipe organ, by the widow and children of the late Reuben C. Osborn, deceased, as a memorial.

8. The *Elizabeth Seymour Brown* legacy, 1893, \$100, for the care of the Seymour lot in the Newington burying ground.

9. The *Henry M. Robbins* legacy, 1898, of \$2,000 for the maintenance of the church choir, and \$5,000 for the Ecclesiastical Society, to use the income only. Mr. Robbins also gave to the Town a piece of land, as a site for a public library; and a bequest to the *Home of the Children's Aid Society*, located in Newington, for the care of incurable children.

*Grace (Prot. Epis.) Church.*—The second Episcopal organization in Newington held its first church service in 1860, in the house of Jared Starr, Esq., at the north end. Such services were held in private houses or in the depot of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Co., till November, 1874, when the corner stone of Grace Church was laid. In March, 1875, the edifice was completed and occupied. The audience room has seats for one hundred and fifty persons. Its location is upon a hill about half a mile northeast of the depot. The number of families on the parish register is twenty-six; communicants sixty-four. The clergymen who have officiated more or less are Rev. Messrs Prof. FRANCIS

T. RUSSELL, F. B. CHETWOOD, FRANCIS GOODWIN, WILLIAM F. NICHOLS, JOHN M. BATES, HOWARD S. CLAPP and JARED STARR. The latter was ordained in 1887, and placed in charge of the parish, and still so remains. Grace Church was consecrated June 15, 1882, and has always been free to all, supported by voluntary contributions collected every Sunday. Its wardens are Edmund Starr and George Brinley. The church owes its existence and prosperity to the untiring efforts of its pastor, Rev. Jared Starr.

Rev. SANFORD SMITH MARTYN, 1868-1870.—The *sixth minister* of Newington was the Rev. SANFORD SMITH MARTYN. In November, 1867, he began to preach, being then a member of the senior class in the Yale Theological Seminary. On Feb. 16, 1868, the church voted to call him as pastor, and the society soon after joined in the invitation. Mr. Martyn accepted the call and was ordained April 29th, 1868.

On Sunday, April 17, 1870, Mr. Martyn offered his resignation as pastor, to take effect April 29, 1870, which was just two years from the date of his ordination. He had received a call to the church in New Hartford, where he was afterwards settled. He is still living (Sept., 1900).

During Mr. Martyn's pastorate the admissions to the church were 45; baptisms, 21; marriages, 4; deaths, 13. The deacons chosen were JEDEDIAH DEMING, Feb. 6, 1870, who died June 16, 1899; CHARLES K. ATWOOD and HEMAN A. WHITTLESEY, March 6, 1870. These deacons were chosen to fill the vacancies occasioned by the death of Dea. Jedediah Deming, 1st, the removal of Dea. Levi S. Deming and the death of Dea. Rufus Stoddard.

The church voted Oct. 18, 1868, to unite with the "Hartford South Conference," which superseded the "Hartford South Consociation," and was more liberal in character. That connection still exists.

If Mr. Martyn's ministry be estimated by the number of admissions to the church during his pastorate, it was a most successful one. His "fervid oratory and fervent prayers" were not unavailing. Many who listened to him have still a warm place for him in their hearts, especially those who first received the communion at his hands.

Rev. Dr. ROBERT GEORGE VERMILYE, 1870-1873, the *seventh pastor*, was born March 3, 1813, in New York City, the son of William W. and Mary (*Montgomery*) Vermilye. He supplied the pulpit as stated pastor, from the second Sabbath in June, 1870, until November 2, 1873, when he ceased his services on account of failing health. He graduated at Columbia College, New York, in 1831. In December, 1837, he was appointed a professor of Greek and Latin in that college. He was



licensed as a minister by the Presbytery of New York, April 19, 1838, and was ordained pastor of the Presbyterian church in German Valley, New Jersey, in July, 1843. He was afterwards called to the pastorate of the Congregational church in Clinton, Oneida County, New York, where he was installed June 10, 1846. He received the honorary degree of D. D. from his Alma Mater in 1851, when 38 years old. In 1857, he was elected to the professorship of Systematic Theology in the Connecticut Theological Institute, then located at East Windsor, but afterwards at Hartford, which position he held till his death.

The society in August, 1873, voted to make repairs on the inside of the church to the amount of \$3,000. Under this vote extensive repairs were made, modernizing the whole interior of the church, putting in new windows and two furnaces instead of the old stoves, making the church look quite attractive.

The church record tells the story as follows: "The pulpit was supplied during the year 1873, until the annual meeting of the society in November, by the Rev. R. G. Vermilye, either in person or by substitute, and the parsonage was occupied by him for three months after the first of July. During the latter part of 1873, Dr. Vermilye's health failed, so that he was unable to preach, but furnished supplies at the request of the society's committee."

Nov. 2, 1873. On the first Sabbath in November the usual communion service was held in the town hall. Dr. Vermilye, who had by special request supplied the pulpit, since his resignation as pastor, officiated for the last time, and never preached again. His feebleness was evident to all, and as he dispensed for the last time the symbols of the Saviour's dying love, and spoke his own parting words, the tearful eyes of the congregation testified their love, sympathy and sorrow. "They sorrowed most of all that they should see his face no more." He died at Hartford, July 5, 1875.

In social intercourse, Dr. Vermilye was kindly and genial, and won the hearts of his people. They venerated his piety and purity of heart, and at the same time felt an honest pride in his large knowledge and ability.

During his pastorate the admissions to the church were 6; baptisms, 4; marriages, 5, and deaths in the town 28.

The period of his pastorate was an important one, not only because of the improvements made in the church edifice, but also because Newington emerged from Societyhood to Townhood, built a town hall, and established a local town government, all of which changes contributed



more to the political and material advancement of Newington than to the spiritual upbuilding of the church.

Rev. WILLIAM JAMIESON THOMPSON, 1875-1879, the *eighth pastor*, was born July 21, 1840, in New York City. He graduated from Columbia College and afterwards from Princeton Seminary. After a few months' travel in Europe he accepted a call to the church in Croton Falls, New York. After a four years' pastorate there, on account of ill health, he removed to Sepmour, Conn., where he preached two years as stated supply. He was called to the pastorate of this church, March 21, and ordained May 27, 1875.

On Sunday, Nov. 17, 1878, Mr. Thomson resigned as pastor, to take effect April 25, 1879. This resignation was accepted.

During his pastorate the admissions to the church were 49; baptisms, 28; marriages, 8; deaths on the church record, 37.

After leaving Newington, he preached in South Glastonbury for two years, and from there he went to East Canaan, Conn. After a pastorate of two years at East Canaan, broken by ill health, he died there Feb. 24, 1885, aged 44 years. He was a firm believer in the efficacy of praying for specific temporal blessings, which he practiced, with the result that he often received the particular blessings specified in his petitions, as he was in the habit of assuring his people.

Rev. JOHN E. ELLIOTT, 1879-1884, the *ninth pastor* of the church, born in New London, Oct. 22, 1829, was a descendant of Elder Brewster. He graduated at Amherst College in 1857, and from the Conn. Theological Institute in 1860. He afterwards married Miss Mary A. Thomson of East Windsor. He became the pastor of the church in Ridgebury, and subsequently was settled in Higganum. Thence he went as a Home Missionary to Iowa, and later to Nebraska. In 1874, he returned to the East, and became the pastor of the church in South Glastonbury. He was appointed the acting pastor of the church in Newington at a church meeting held Sept. 7, 1879, and continued in that relation until Sunday, Sept. 28, 1884, when he preached his farewell sermon, and closed his connection with this church. After leaving Newington, he was about three years in Bridgewater engaged again in Home Missionary work, State of Washington, and died Jan. 19, 1888. During his pastorate in Newington, mainly by his efforts, a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was formed, which has ever since flourished, and been the means of great development of the spiritual growth of the young people. Also the debt of the Ecclesiastical Society was paid, and he labored to create an interest in a project to build a chapel, which however did not materialize till some years

later. He was earnest in his ministry for both the material and spiritual interests of the church, which were ever dear to his heart.

During his pastorate the admissions to the church were 43; baptisms, 36; marriages, 5, and deaths, 30. His remains were buried in the cemetery in New London.

REV. JOHN OTIS BARROWS, 1885-1891, the *tenth pastor*, was born in Mansfield, Conn., in 1833. He graduated from Amherst College in 1860, and studied theology at the Hartford and Andover Seminaries. He was called to North Hampton, N. H., in 1863, and after a pastorate there of several years was settled at Exeter, N. H. In 1870, he was sent by the American Board as a missionary to Turkey. After ten and one-half years in that field, he returned to this country on account of the ill health of his family. He then preached in Atchinson, N. H. On Feb. 22, 1885, he preached for the first time in the Newington church, and began an engagement for one year May 3, 1885. Dec. 6, 1885, he was called to become the settled pastor and accepted the call Feb. 27, 1886. He was ordained 29 April, 1886.

Mr. Barrows took a vacation of one year from Sept. 21, 1891, on account of ill health, but his health not improving, he resigned as pastor, Nov. 28, 1891. During his pastorate the admissions were 68; baptisms, 14; marriages, none recorded; deaths, 21.

Mr. Barrows and his wife both endeared themselves to the people of his charge by their cordial courtesy. The warm grasp of his hand indicated the kindness of his heart. He was ever a strong friend of missions and a strong foe of intemperance. He would have annihilated every liquor saloon in the world, if he had only had the power, and could have made the manufacture of liquor a lost art forevermore. The *Woman's Christian Temperance Union* was organized with his approval and assistance. The benevolent contributions of the church increased, and the whole life of the church was invigorated. He is now (1900) living in Stonington, Conn., and has a daughter who is a missionary in Van, Turkey.

REV. HERBERT MACY, 1892, the *eleventh and present pastor*, was born at Fall River, Mass., Sept. 2, 1857, the son of Alexander and Sarah (*Judkins*) Macy. On his father's side he is a descendant of the Macys of Nantucket, and traces his ancestry back to Capt. Paul Macy, one of the original proprietors of the Island. His mother's father was a merchant in Boston, having a store near the State House, to which Daniel Webster often resorted to get his drink of "flip." His education began in Paxton, Mass., where his parents had moved, and was continued in the High School of Worcester, and then for two years

under the private instruction of Rev. Calvin Butler and Dr. D. O. Mears of Worcester. During several years prior to 1880, he was identified with the work of the Young Men's Christian Association of Worcester. He graduated in 1883, from the Hartford Theological Seminary, preached for a year in the South Church of East Hartford, and declined a call to become its pastor. He then went to San Francisco, Cal., and was ordained in September, 1883, as pastor of the Fourth Congregational church of that city, which church had been organized by Dr. Bissell, who had been a beloved teacher of Mr. Macy as a professor in the Hartford Seminary. In 1884, he went to the Hawaiian Islands on a vacation, preaching there at Hilo, and at the Fort Street Church in Honolulu. He married June 18, 1885, Nellie Means Griswold of Rocky Hill. As the climate of San Francisco did not agree with the health of Mrs. Macy, they returned in 1886, to New England, and then he served for a year as pastor of the Third Congregational Church of Chicopee, Mass. He declined a call at that place, and in 1888, became General Missionary of St. Paul, Minn., where he organized the Olivet Church, and became its first pastor. After three years of service there, he returned to New England, and supplied the Newington church while Mr. Barrows was on his leave of absence. On Dec. 12, 1891, the church voted to invite him to become their pastor. He accepted and was ordained Feb. 10, 1892.

The admissions to September, 1900, have been 77; baptisms, 59; deaths, 27. Deacons have been chosen as follows: January 9, 1896, ROGER WELLES; January 25, 1900, FRANKLIN C. LATIMER; the former on account of the removal of Dea. H. A. WHITTLESEY to Middletown, and the latter to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Dea. Jedediah Deming.

NEWINGTON INCORPORATED A TOWN.—By the census of 1870, the First Society of Wethersfield had 1,915 inhabitants, and the Newington Society 781, making a total of 2,694 for the whole town.

The disadvantages of the union of these two societies in one town had long been realized by the people of Newington. Some of the reasons for their separation and for the incorporation of each society into a town were the following:

The two localities were separated by natural boundaries. Cedar Mountain divided the two societies through their entire length. In addition three ranges of hills, with intervening watercourses and valleys, running parallel to Cedar Mountain, and east of it, had to be crossed to get from one society to the other. As the voting place and the town clerk's office, and treasurer's office, and a majority of the other

town offices were located in Wethersfield, it was a heavy burden upon the people of Newington to travel from four to six miles to Wethersfield to vote, or do any other town business, across the mountain, hills and swamps which the God of nature had placed as barriers of non-intercourse between them. Man had done little to overcome these natural disadvantages. The roads were stony and steep over the mountain and hills, and wet and muddy through the swamps and valleys, especially at the spring elections, then held on the first Monday of April in each year. Good roads would have required a large outlay of expense, which was not warranted by the small amount of travel over them. All the trade and business interests of the two societies were distinct. There was therefore no natural or artificial tie to bind them together, except the mandate of the legislature. Under these circumstances, before the election in April, 1871, a meeting of Newington citizens, irrespective of party, was held at the railroad depot, to consider the advisability of petitioning the next legislature, at its May session, 1871, for the incorporation of Newington as a new town. The meeting decided unanimously in favor of such action, and nominated Roger Welles, as their candidate for representative to the legislature to secure the act of incorporation. He was also nominated soon after by the Republican caucus for the same office. Before the election he was also put upon the Democratic ticket for representative in place of Chas. K. Atwood, resigned. The election was held April 3, 1871, with the two tickets resulting for representatives, as follows:

Republican Votes.		Democratic Votes.	
Gen. James C. Pratt,	263	Simeon Hale,	194
Roger Welles,	248	Roger Welles,	184
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Pratt over Welles,	15	Hale over Welles,	10

As Welles was nominated and ran squarely on the new town issue, the result developed by the votes, was as follows:

For New Town, Rep.,	248	Dem.,	184	Total,	432
Against New Town, Rep.,	15	Dem.,	10	Total,	25

Or in the proportion of more than 17 in favor, to 1 against, the new town. The First Society of Wethersfield was almost unanimously in favor of the new town, as it would give that part of the town two representatives instead of one (as one had been allowed to Newington)



and all the town offices. The 25 votes in opposition probably came from Newington, as some Republicans thought that Newington would become a Democratic town if set off from Wethersfield, and preferred to be an outlying fraction of Republican Wethersfield, than independent as a town under the local rule of the Democratic party, thus placing party above patriotism. Those prominently in favor of the new town were John S. Kirkham, Jared Starr, John C. Tracy, John D. Seymour, Charles K. Atwood, Albert S. Hunn, Edwin Welles, Roger Welles and Martin Robbins, and among the leaders on the other side those most strenuous in opposition were Heman A. Whittlesey, Daniel H. Willard and John M. Belden, and those not so pronounced in opposition were Jedediah Deming and Reuben C. Osborn. A petition to the legislature was drawn up by Mr. Welles and circulated largely by John S. Kirkham, and received 115 signatures of citizens in Wethersfield and Newington in favor of the new town, and also a remonstrance was circulated which was signed by 41 persons. These documents appear to be missing from the State Archives of that session of the Legislature. The petition was referred in the General Assembly to the committee on New Towns and Probate Districts, and a hearing was duly had thereon. The committee reported unanimously in favor of granting the prayer of the petitioners, and submitted a resolution of incorporation, drawn by Mr. Welles, which unanimously passed both Houses, and was approved by Governor Marshall Jewell, July 10, 1871. The news of the passage of the resolution was received at Newington with general rejoicing. Flags were hung out, and a cannon was obtained from the State Arsenal at Hartford, and fired on the Green at the center of the new town, and in front of the houses of those who were prominently in favor of its incorporation, eliciting speeches of congratulation from those thus saluted, which were greeted with cheers from the party of cannoneers. The first town meeting under the act of incorporation was held in the Methodist church in Newington, at 1 o'clock p. m. of Monday, July 17th, 1871, at which the following town officers were elected: John S. Kirkham, *town clerk*; John C. Tracy, *treasurer*; Joseph J. Francis, Albert S. Hunn, Charles K. Atwood, Roger Welles, Jacob Dix, Jedediah Deming, Robert O. Joyner, *selectmen*.

It was voted to borrow money to pay the expenses of incorporation and of record books, and that at the annual town meeting in October, and annually thereafter, only three selectmen should be elected.

At the first annual town meeting held on Monday, Oct. 2, 1871, the former town clerk and treasurer were re-elected, and the three selectmen chosen were Charles K. Atwood, Jacob Dix and Daniel G. Mc-



Lean. They were authorized to settle all matters with regard to the division of the property of the two towns, which duty was satisfactorily brought to an issue, 7 Dec., 1871, by an article of

*Agreement of Wethersfield and Newington as to Division of Property*, by which the selectmen of said towns also agreed to divide the liabilities of said towns according to the grand lists aforesaid; also to divide the town deposit fund of Wethersfield according to the number of inhabitants of said towns on the tenth day of July, 1870; also to divide the paupers of said towns according to the resolve incorporating the Town of Newington; also that the value of the interest of Newington in said property real and personal (except the town deposit fund) shall be set off against and apply in payment of the share of Newington in the liabilities of said Town of Wethersfield, on the 10th day of July last.

This agreement was carried out in good faith by both parties, and disposed of the assets of the two towns, but the liabilities of Wethersfield as they existed July 10, 1871, occasioned more trouble. The Town of Wethersfield claimed that her expenses in fighting the Town of Glastonbury through the whole of that May session of the General Assembly, and afterwards, should be shared by Newington, although the latter town had no interest in that controversy whatever; and it was claimed on her behalf that she could not be held liable for any expenses in Court or Legislature made after July 10, 1871. An amicable suit brought before the Superior Court and tried in December, 1876, before Judge Hovey, was decided in favor of the contention of Newington. The first representative from Newington to the General Assembly was Charles K. Atwood, who was elected in April, 1872, to the following May session, which was held in New Haven.

Thirty years have elapsed since Newington was incorporated a town. During that period the town has increased in population, has built a town hall, has greatly improved its roads and bridges, has secured a town library and reading room; while an electric road has been located through the center of the town, proving a great convenience to the people. The town has consolidated its school districts, and established a grammar school at the town hall. It commences the new century with bright prospects of future advancement and progress, in its material, educational and spiritual interests.



WILLOW BRIDGE, (CLAYTON), NEWINGTON.



## CHAPTER XIX.

### *Stepney Parish 1722-1822, and The Town of Rocky Hill 1843-1900.*

[BY RUFUS W. GRISWOLD, M. D.]

[NOTE, *by the Editor.* The following chapter is a careful *blending* of the original notes, collected during the past 25 years, from Stepney Parish and other records, and from personal acquaintance with many of the oldest inhabitants of the parish, by the late Dr. RUFUS W. GRISWOLD, the venerable and respected local historian of Rocky Hill; with the original notes on the same subject, found among the papers of the late SHERMAN W. ADAMS, Esq., of Wethersfield, and from which his sketch of Rocky Hill, in the *Memorial History of Hartford County*, was condensed. The interest and labors of both of these students of Wethersfield history were so identical, and their relations to each other so harmonious—that it is almost impossible to divide the honors between them; but, we believe that Mr. Adams himself would have admitted that, in many respects, Dr. Griswold's name was entitled to head this chapter. The Doctor's most honorable and intimate connection with Rocky Hill, for nearly half a century, together, with the great advantages which his profession afforded him, of acquaintance with the oldest persons in the community, enabled him to secure a mass of valuable historic and biographic material, which Mr. Adams, in his lifetime, drew upon freely in the preparation of his Wethersfield history. This manuscript material, Dr. Griswold, during his last years, generously placed at the disposal of the Editor, who has found in it an almost overwhelming "embarrassment of (historic) riches," from which he has faithfully endeavored to cull such items as may form a brief, but satisfactory history of Stepney parish—now Rocky Hill—youngest born of Old Wethersfield.

In a note to the Editor, Dr. Griswold says that his notes were begun about 1870, and were, at first, a jotting down of traditions and reminiscences, gathered from the older people of the town; and, from these as a basis, his quest for further information was extended on more definite lines. About 1880, at Judge Adams' request, who had then undertaken to prepare the history of Wethersfield for the *Memorial History of Hartford County*, he contributed much of the material pertaining to Rocky Hill, which appeared in that work, under Judge Adam's name—though the limitations of space in the Memorial History contained much of the matter which had been collected. After this, "by fits and starts," Dr. G. continued to add to what he had already gathered, until in the Spring of 1886, he made an attempt to put into proper shape, the material thus collected. Of this attempt, he well says, "Professional business, the unending calls of respectable livelihood, the petty, but irresistible demands of domestic existence, obliged me to make of this



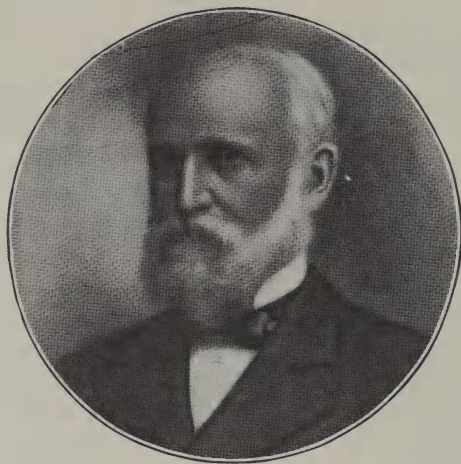
'labor of love' a 'catch and go' matter, by no means favorable to the coherency and symmetry desirable in a work of this kind. Errors there must be—for, while convinced of the correctness of facts stated, the author could not, even by diligent searching, pin them down to definite dates, and has frequently been obliged to use proximate time. Inferences, also, have been made in some cases, which though unavoidable, are yet within the limits of probability. Much of the information has been gained from the existing Clerk's and Treasurer's records of Stepney parish, from the Church records, Town records and from the Baptismal record kept by Rev. Calvin Chapin, for more than fifty years, of his pastorate, as also from his copy of other records, back to 1765; as well as from several private account books of deceased inhabitants, kindly loaned by their relatives."

It must be remembered that, until 1722, Rocky Hill had no separate parochial existence, and none whatever as an individual town until 1843. Prior to that date, it was a part of the town of Wethersfield, and in the old records, its history cannot be distinguished from that of the older town. Whatever, for example, it may have contributed in the early Indian or Franch Wars, in the Revolutionary War and that of 1812 (and it furnished its quota to all these) has passed into record as a part of Wethersfield's history. The "lower community" had its full share in all these—but it is well nigh impossible to identify individuals and cull them from the general list."

Among the sources of Dr. Griswold's old time reminiscences and tales, the most important were those of Mr. CHARLES WILLIAMS of Rocky Hill, the youngest son of John and grandson of Elias Williams. Of him, Dr. G. says: "From no other source have I obtained so much information about Rocky Hill matters back to 1800, as from him. For many years he was the local correspondent for the *Conn. Courant*. For more than a score of years before his death, he was so deaf that conversation with him was impossible; and from this fact, perhaps, he was the more observing of passing events. Being a great reader, he watched the newspapers and was fond of writing in correction of, and in addition to, what he read concerning local events, as well as concerning his own recollections."—*H. R. S.*]







*Rufus W. Linswold M.D.*



LIBRARY BOOK-PLATE.  
In possession of Conn. Historical Society.

RUFUS WOLCOTT GRISWOLD, M. D., the author of this chapter, was born in Manchester, Ct., 20 February, 1825, on his grandfather's (Dr. George Griswold's) place, known as the Mygatt farm. He was descended from Edward Griswold, who came from England to Windsor, Ct., in 1639, (with Rev. Ephraim Huit), as follows: *Edward*, the Emigrant,<sup>1</sup> *George*<sup>2</sup>, b. in England.; *Daniel*,<sup>3</sup> *Daniel, Jr.*,<sup>4</sup> all of Windsor; Dr. *George*,<sup>5</sup> of Harwinton and Manchester; *Julius I.*,<sup>6</sup> of Manchester; Dr. *Rufus W.*,<sup>7</sup> of Rocky Hill. Dr. Griswold's mother was *Ann*<sup>7</sup> (dau. of *Samuel*,<sup>6</sup> of E. Htfd.; s. of *Samuel*,<sup>5</sup> s. of *Ens. John*,<sup>4</sup> of Hockanum; s. of Sgt. *John*,<sup>3</sup> of E. Htfd.; s. of *Joseph*,<sup>2</sup> s. of *John*<sup>1</sup>) *Arnold*, a 1636 settler of Hartford. Until he was 17 years old, the subject of our sketch resided with his gd-father Samuel Arnold, in the southeast part of E. Hartford, and his life was the ordinary one of a boy on a small farm, at that day; going to the district school winters, in the usual fashion, with one summer term at Joseph Taylor's Select School in Glastonbury, Ct. In his 17th years, he entered the office of the *Hartford Times*, where he was four years an apprentice, one a journeyman, and one foreman in the printing office. In March, 1848, he started *The New England Weekly Gazette*, of which he was editor, printer and publisher for two years. Then, in the spring of 1850, he entered upon the study of medicine—and in the four years thus employed depended more or less upon his practical knowledge of the art of printing, and his literary work as newspaper reporter. Of his ventures at this period of his life, he says: "In connection with other parties, I undertook the publication of *The Parthenon*, an illustrated work, designed to be issued in twelve numbers, and to contain papers from some fifty of the most prominent living American authors of the day. In connection with this enterprise, I visited and had personal interviews with Ralph Waldo Emerson, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Henry W. Longfellow, James Russell Lowell and others. The project was not a success. After this, I was one summer in New Britain, Ct., doing editorial work on the *N. B. Journal*, published by O. P. Brown. Going back to N. Y. City, I edited, for a time, a weekly paper called *The Golden Dollar*. In the winter of 1852-53, in addition to attending medical lectures by day, I did night work as a reporter and writer on the *Brooklyn Morning Journal*. The summer of 1853, I spent in service at the Colored Home Hospital, 65th St., and East River; and while there, as previously, wrote a large number of newspaper stories for Dow's *Waverly Magazine*, *The Empire City* and other papers. In the Autumn

of 1853, I edited *The Empire City* for a short time, and all these jobs at pen-driving were mixed in with work "at the case" as a practical printer."

After his graduation, in 1854, from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, he commenced the practice of medicine in Rocky Hill, where he resided until his death, 18th August, 1902; enjoying the respect and confidence of all who knew him, in a successful practice of 48 years. Among his many valuable contributions to medical literature may be mentioned *A History of Malaria in New England*, Conn. Health Board Reports, 1852-'86, and a paper on *The Materia Medica & Theapeutics of One Hundred Years Ago*, pub. in the Centennial volume of the Proceedings of the Conn. State Medical Society for 1892. Of this Society he had been a member since 1854; twice President of the Hartford County Medical Association, and several times represented it as a Fellow, at the meetings of the State Medical Society.

Dr. Griswold possessed strong antiquarian tastes, which his extensive professional acquaintance throughout the county, with its oldest inhabitants and their families, enabled him to indulge—with (as will be seen by this chapter) profitable and interesting results for the benefit of those who are interested in old Wethersfield and Rocky Hill history. He was one of the founders and incorporators of the Conn. Soc. of Sons of the American Revolution, and prominent in its work, until compelled by ill health, a few years before his death, to resign active duty. He was also active in church and town affairs, in school and library affairs, and in fact, in all that pertained to the highest interests of his adopted home. From the spring of 1860, to the Autumn of 1864, he was Town Clerk and Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths; for some 15 years from 1856, one of the Acting School Visitors, until his resignation; for 4 years from 1860, Justice of the Peace; and for many years from 1858, Clerk and Treasurer of the Centre School District; and Treasurer of Rocky Hill Cong. Eccl. Socy., since 1879; notary public for over 20 years; head of the High School Committee (whenever there has been a High School in operation in the town), and in 1883, represented the town in General Assembly, where he was Chairman of committee on Contingent Expenses of the House.

Dr. Griswold left a widow, formerly Esther Eliza, (dau. of Elijah) Hammond, of Vernon, Ct., and three sons, all of whom are practising physicians, all grad. Med. Dept. Univ., City of N. Y., viz.: ROGER M. GRISWOLD, M. D., b. Brooklyn, N. Y., 13 Sept., 1852; grad. 1875; practiced at North Manchester and Portland, Ct., Providence, R. I.,

and now of Kensington, Ct.; EDWARD H. GRISWOLD, M. D., b. Rocky Hill, Ct., 22 July, 1855; grad. 1878; practiced at Niagara Falls, N. Y., and E. Hartford, Ct., and now at Niantic, Ct.; and JULIUS E. GRISWOLD, M. D., grad. 1879, who practised at Glastonbury and Portland, Ct.—[*H. R. S.*]

*The First Settlers* of the district at south end of Wethersfield, formerly known as Stepney and later as Rocky Hill, have already been mentioned pages 198 and 199.<sup>1</sup>

*The Establishment of Stepney Parish, Otherwise Known as the Third Ecclesiastical Society in Wethersfield.*—The initiatory movement towards the formation of a new parish in the lower, or Rocky Hill portion of Wethersfield, in 1720; its incorporation as such by the General Court in 1722; the fixing of its parochial bounds, and the bestowal of its name in 1723, have been already stated on pages 193 to 199.

Despite the Old World baptismal name of Stepney, thus given to it, it continued to be known, from the first, as Rocky Hill. The hog-back ridge of trap rock, some 300 feet high, which extends from just south of Goffe's Brook to The Landing, was and remains so conspicuous a feature of the landscape, that it could not be ignored and so fitly characterized the region that, in a little time, though the parish was officially Stepney, the name ROCKY HILL began to be applied to all the eastern portion of the south end of the town, and in 1826, became so by legal enactment. This may have been, in some respects, an unfortunate naming for us. There is no doubt that it conveys to the minds of those who are strangers to the place, an erroneous idea of the physical features of the township, viz.: that the  $3\frac{1}{4}$  by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles of territory was about all like the iron-stone hill that overlooks the beautiful meadows at its foot. The name suggests dreariness and desolation; it calls up visions of rugged, unproductive, quartz-bouldered hill-sides, barren in spots and in others overrun with briars and stumpy cedars, a region dominated by rocks and prolific of rattlesnakes, instead of being, as it really is, in its geographical situation and physical features, one of

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<sup>1</sup> To the names there given, we may add (from a list of Rocky Hill settlers among Judge Adams' papers) the following, with dates at which they are found on record: Wm. Biggs, 1693; Joseph Butler; Thos. Deming, Sr.; Eliphalet Dickinson, 1697; John Coleman; Joseph Crawford, 1697; Jona. Curtis, 1713; Samuel Dix, 1694; Joseph Grimes, 1705; Lazarus Hollister, 1696; John Reynolds, 1697; Wid. Riley, 1713-14; Jonathan Smith, 1701; Jacob Williams, 1696; Wm. Warner, 1715.



the most beautiful towns in the valley of a river unsurpassed in natural beauty by any stream on this continent. The view from the crown of this trap-rock hill,<sup>1</sup> both as to the foreground of the meadows below and the villages around, as well as in the distance, with the windings of the silver-gray river between; reaching, on the east, to the Glastonbury range of hills; on the north, of the City of Hartford, with its domes and spires; and, further on, the Hoosic chain of mountains, in Massachusetts; swinging thence down to the Talcott mountain, to Southington and Meriden; and, from thence, stretching easterly to the straits below Middletown, is one of unsurpassed loveliness. It presents the charm of pastoral culture and harmonious peacefulness, with suggestions of active prosperity, and well earned abundance. It is a picture of kindly Nature, moulded into new beauty by Agricultural arts; and its tints and colors, of which the eye never wearies, constantly change, in the round of seasons, week by week—almost day by day.

As an abiding name, this hill itself should be known as "Iron-Stone Hill." For the last forty years, it has been designated as "Shipman's Hill" from the fact that the tavern at its foot, on the west side, was kept for some years by Mr. Samuel Shipman, whose land at that point ran up to and over its top. Directly on the top, at this point, is a natural plateau, large enough to accommodate a hotel building, for which the site is unsurpassed. Some 40 years ago, Mr. S. beautified this point to some extent, by planting a double row of shade trees and opening a carriage road to it, up the hill. It is easily accessible also, at other places. This conspicuous feature of the town should not have its name changed in every generation at the whim of every owner.

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<sup>1</sup> There have been many speculations that *the Rocky Hill* might treasure richer deposits than the trap rock. James G. Percival, physician, poet, geologist, who was born in 1795, in that part of the town of Berlin, which was then Kensington parish and is now New Britian, and who in 1835, was appointed by the Governor to make a geological survey of the state, stated in his published report that he found traces of coal in Rocky Hill. I have not been able to find out exactly at what point this may have been, but wherever it was, the finds must have been very slight. I am doubtful if they were in near relation to the iron-stone ledge, for the two kinds of deposit are not often associated; and coal, if found at all, would more likely be in approximation with the shale which crops out at several points a mile or more to the west of the iron-stone range, say in the neighborhood of the old stone-pit hole three-fourths of a mile west of the Centre corners. About 1850, when this country began to develop the petroleum deposits in the Middle States, there was a bit of excitement right here for a few weeks; and a company was organized to bore for oil along one of the little brooks that are crossed going from the Centre northwest to Griswoldville; and it was claimed that surface indications were favorable; borings were made, but the matter soon "petered through."—R. W. G.

An expression in common use for 200 years after the settlement, to designate Rocky Hill, was "the lower community." "How are the people in the lower community?" was a frequent colloquialism, and the answer invariably came back "The lower community is all right!"

*The Bounds of the Parish.*—The N. bound of Stepney parish was at the corner of the road near the present So. Wethersfield R. R. station, and the natural inference would be that the line ran E. from thence through the meadow, and to the river. But, it is on record, that, in December, 1746, the Inhabitants of the parish, voted: "Upon consideration of the straitness of the bounds of this Society, and the charges increasing more in proportion than the increase or growth of the inhabitants of said Society, by reason of the straitness of the bounds, this Society, therefore, by vote agree to choose Thomas Curtis, John Robbins, Jr., and Daniel Deming, a Committee to petition to y<sup>e</sup> old Society in Wethersfield to enlarge the bounds of this Society, and grant that the bounds of this Society may run west, as Beckley road runs until it meets with Newington Society, and then it may run east, beginning at Beaver Bridge and to run from said bridge the same line as y<sup>e</sup> highway runs, until it comes to Conn. River; and in case y<sup>e</sup> old Society in Wethersfield shall neglect or refuse to grant y<sup>e</sup> aforesaid petition, then this Society by vote do empower the Committee aforesaid to petition the General Assembly in May next in order for y<sup>e</sup> enlargement of y<sup>e</sup> bounds of this Society, as aforesaid; and this Society by vote agree to defray y<sup>e</sup> charge that y<sup>e</sup> Comm. shall be at in the prosecution of y<sup>e</sup> premises."<sup>1</sup> As, in 1754, the same matter was under consideration, it would appear that the Stepney parish folks had not received the desired "enlargement." But, in 1759, it was obtained. At that time the old parish retained all the meadow N. and S. of Beaver, or Goffe's brook, and at the W. all the territory W. of and along about the Shunpike to some now uncertain point S. of the road to Berlin; the parish, at this time, being extended N. to Beaver Meadow road, and at the W. to the Berlin road.

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<sup>1</sup> As elsewhere in print, over Dr. Griswold's name, the bounds of Stepney parish were given as follows: "The parish extended N. to the road which runs W. past the So. Weth. R. R. station. From that point the line ran E. to Beaver Brook, which is but a short distance, then followed that stream down to where it meets Goffe's Brook (the two being called 'lower down' Meadow Brook) and on till Meadow Brook enters the Connecticut, a little way above the Ferry. West from Dix's corner, the line ran down the old road S. W. to the neighborhood of the West Meth. Church, and then on towards Beckley Quarter. The parish thus took in a wedge-shaped piece of land now in Weth.; but had nothing of the Great Meadow, nor of a large tract at the West, laying N. of the Berlin road."

*Old Roads.*—It is worthy of note that the *early roads* laid out in the original town (embracing the four into which it is now divided) were taken from land belonging to the town itself, and not from private owners, so that the *fee* of the soil in all such roads, is still vested in the Town, and is not, in any sense, the property of the owners of the adjoining lots. The claim (generally good) that a man owns to the middle of the road in front of his premises, except for purposes of public travel, does not hold as to ancient town roads in either Wethersfield, Glastonbury, Rocky Hill or Newington. Rocky Hill has hundreds of acres belonging to it *in fee*, which adjoining land owners have appropriated and fenced in. The 20-rod highways have been reduced to four rods, or less. The middle road into Rocky Hill, coming from the crossing at the mattress shop past the “Old Maid’s Place” and E. of the Parsonage land, was laid out in 1680. This was on Town land, as were the several 20-rod highways. The road west from the Curtis corner in So. part of the town to the Berlin line was 20 rods wide; and so, probably, also was the road W. from the West School house; while the road running N. into Newington, E. of Beckley Quarters is still known as “Twenty-Rod highway” and, perhaps, there were others.

At the period alluded to (1754) a movement was made to set off from this parish, its extreme W. end, to the Beckley Quarter section, presumably because there may have been two or three houses there that were within the Stepney parish lines; and a committee was appointed to forward the project. Either then, or subsequently, the extreme end of this town was, for school purposes, set into Beckley Quarter and so continues. The line of the district up E., comes to the neighborhood of “Twenty-Rod highway.” Formerly it came farther E., nearly up to the Horace Porter place, but some forty years ago, a new line was made, as it is at present—coming from S., in the line of the road that runs S., into W. Cromwell, West of Cabull Hill, and thence straight N., to the Berlin road.

It has already been seen, from statements in the earlier pages of this work, that the lands originally purchased by the Town of Wethersfield *in common* from the Indians—were from time to time set out to individuals for special purposes—and allotments were made from time to time, in which *all* the land-holding settlers shared. Among other such divisions of the common land, we may especially note, as concerning Stepney parish, one made in 1693, which is fully discussed by Judge Adams in *Appendix V*. The last division of the public lands of

the town was in 1754, which exhausted the “undivided lands,” commons and public pastures for cattle and sheep.

Early in the settlement of Wethersfield, cattle were pastured in the commons, under charge of town “herders.” About 1650, there was one of these commons in what is now Rocky Hill, probably along the N., line and W., of the middle road. In 1674, a common of 1,000 acres was established here for cattle and sheep. The property west of the Parsonage tract and south of the road to the West District has been known as the “Common lots” till within the past 20 years—and is still sometimes so called. It was not divided until about 1750.

*Indian rights.*—It is an old tradition in this town [as in Windsor and other Connecticut towns—EDITOR] to within my recollection, that in all transfers of land in Wethersfield from the Indians to the whites, there was either a specified, or an implied agreement that the grantors reserved the right to cut all the basket-timber for their own use that they might want and wherever they chose; and consequently their descendants have rarely, if ever, been interfered with, in so doing.

*Meeting-Houses.*—The creation of a new parish, meant, of course, the building of a meeting house. It may be reasonably supposed that prior to this time some intermittent religious services had been held at this south end of the town; but, for all stated services its inhabitants had been obliged to resort to the old church at Wethersfield.

The site of the first meeting house is known, but not so the date when it was built. It stood on the highway, in front of the present site of Mr. Wait Warner’s barn.<sup>1</sup> As the General Court, in 1723, granted Stepney parish a special exemption from the “country rate,” on the grand list of 1722, because of heavy parish charges, it is probable that the construction of the meeting house had been begun in 1722. The

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<sup>1</sup> It may be worth mentioning here, that the original intention as to the location of the first meeting house, was to place it in the near neighborhood of what was called “the Stone-Pits”—which is supposed to have been north of the road on the east side of the little stream before one goes up the hill leading to the West District. It was quite the fashion, at that period to put the meeting-house on some commanding site; and what is now known as the Boardman-Holmes property near the Stone-Pits, commands a splendid view to three of the four cardinal points of the compass. It was, also, at this period, expected that the road running south from the brook crossing at Hewett’s Pond (So. Weth.) and which comes out in front of the Boardman-Holmes property, would be the main road into the south part of Wethersfield; and that point was also very much nearer the centre of the proposed new parish. But, as the bulk of the population was a mile further east, the idea of that site for the meeting house was abandoned.



earliest record extant, of Stepney parish, is dated April 18th, 1726; and at this date the building had been completed so as to be occupied, excepting the pulpit; Tho. Morton, Jacob and Stephen Williams being at this time chosen to see to the putting up of the latter.

This edifice was a plain wooden building, and as we learn from the parish record, a two story structure. Pews, next to the walls, were built in 1729, also, one for the Minister. Other pews followed in 1730, and galleries in 1732, but these were not furnished with pews. The work seems to have been done by Daniel Edwards, under the direction of the "Grand Committee," the first members of which were Capt. Ephraim Goodrich, Joseph Grimes and Samuel Williams, Capt. Joshua Robbins, Capt. Edward Bulkeley, Jacob Williams and other leading men were members of this Committee. It is evident that, for many years, the accommodations were quite crude. Temporary seats were all that there were in the galleries until 1768, when pews were permitted to be put up in side-galleries alone. There was no provision for heating the building, and the people used only foot-stoves, or heated stones, or pieces of plank, which they brought to church with them to keep their feet warm. Church business meetings, in the winter, were adjourned from the meeting house (which was virtually used as a Town hall,) to some nearby private dwelling. This condition obtained until 1829, in which year Roderick Grimes was paid a bill of \$5.95, for "wood, shovel and tongs," and at the same time, a bill was paid to Manna Woodhouse, of \$6.50, which bills probably mark the introduction of the stove. Thereafter "wood" bills appear regularly upon the records, and wood continued to be used until 1844, when coal was introduced into use in heating the church. The same year the first *insurance* was put upon the building; chimneys were built in 1832. The ceiling of the edifice was plastered for the first time, so far as appears, in 1769, or '70, and then by a special subscription. Meetings, as was the rule generally at that period, were, for many years, called by beat of drum.

*The Second Meeting House.*—It was during the ministry of Rev. Dr. Chapin, the fourth pastor of Stepney parish, that the second edifice was erected, in 1808. A vote had been passed after an agitation of the subject, commencing in 1805,<sup>1</sup> authorizing its construction, and a piece of land for its site was purchased from Jacob Robbins, at \$2.50

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<sup>1</sup> Merriam Williams, writing, under date of 24 Mch., 1805, to his bro. Comfort (then at Yale College) says: "There is a prospect of our having a new meeting-house in this town. The people got a vote for one the first meeting they had for the purpose. \* \* \* There are a few who wish to have a Green extend from the







THE ROCKY HILL CHURCH.

per acre, south of the Academy, just where the turnpike leaves the old road. It was provided that the building should be 60 feet long and 50 feet wide,<sup>2</sup> and modeled like the one at Middletown. Its frame was raised on the 13th November, 1806, and the edifice dedicated 22d September, 1808; and was furnished with pews, which were removed from the galleries in 1830, and from the main floor in 1842, and slips substituted. In 1843, the spire which had surmounted the tower from the beginning, was taken down and the building considerably repaired, since which time the structure has remained substantially as at present. Some of the timbers of the old (or first) church (which was sold at auction in October, 1808) were used in the present dwelling house of Mr. Samuel Dimock; and were found to be perfectly sound after over 150 years' use. The edifice received its first coat of paint in 1827, (*Chapin Mss.*), again in 1844, the addition of window blinds in 1844, and a reshingling and repainting in 1856.

The cost of this second edifice was a little over \$9,000, in addition to much contributed work. Elijah Ackley seems to have been chief carpenter, Seth Dickinson had charge of the stone work, Josiah Beckley and Wm. Tryon, Jr., furnished the timber mostly; the underpinning and steps were of Portland Stone. A debt was incurred by the edifice which was not wholly paid off until 1850.

The Committee in charge of the erection of this church were Wait Robbins, Joseph Bulkely, Jabez Reilly, Hosea Bulkeley, Richard Belding, Frederick Robbins, William Williams and Simeon Butler.

We must, by no means, forget that the dedication of the new building was preceded by the usual "Seating of the Meeting-House," or as more anciently phrased "Dignifying the Seats." In September, 1808, the house being fully ready for use, a Committee was appointed to "seat the meeting house;" that is, determine who should occupy the respective seats for the year—according to a well defined, but unwritten law of those early days, which took into consideration, the age, dignity, official

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Academy to the meeting house, but Mr. Robbins is not willing to part with so much of his land."

In another letter addressed (2 July, 1807) to the same brother, he writes: "Edward would be very glad to write to you; but his father [Rev. Calvin Chapin] does not like to have him write without he can oversee him, and he is so busy about covering the vane and ball to the meeting house with gold leaf, that he has not time to help him. The vane is 7 ft. long. Mr. Danforth [later the writer's father-in-law] measured the ball with corn, and said it held 36 gallons. It seems now as if there was a prospect of having the meeting-house finished some time; there are a number at work upon it, and they seem to get along considerably fast."

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Chapin's *Mss.* says, "it is outside 64x50 ft."

standing in the community, relative wealth, amount of tax paid, etc., etc., by each person. The "seating of the meeting-house" was always a most important and solemn procedure, giving rise not infrequently to much heart-burning jealousy; and often affording "lots of fun" to the gossips of the town. Boys were confined to a special gallery; and such negroes as were supposed to have any souls worthy to be saved, were located in an obscure corner of the house, as far as possible from the pulpit and its sounding-board. As all the property of the parish was taxed for the support of the ministry, it followed that *everyone* was entitled to a free seat in the meeting house; but there was no democratic equality in those days—oh! no! social rank was still scrupulously observed by our forefathers—in these matters—though Jeffersonian Democracy was even then on its way to them.

*Parsonage Land.*—Stepney parish never had a *parsonage house*, but it had parsonage property. Almost simultaneously with the establishment of the parish, Joseph Grimes, petitioned the Town for 8 acres of land "near the mouth of the lane that comes in by Jonathan Riley's, for our first minister whom we are about to settle" (*Weth. Town Votes*, II, p. 19), which was granted the same day.

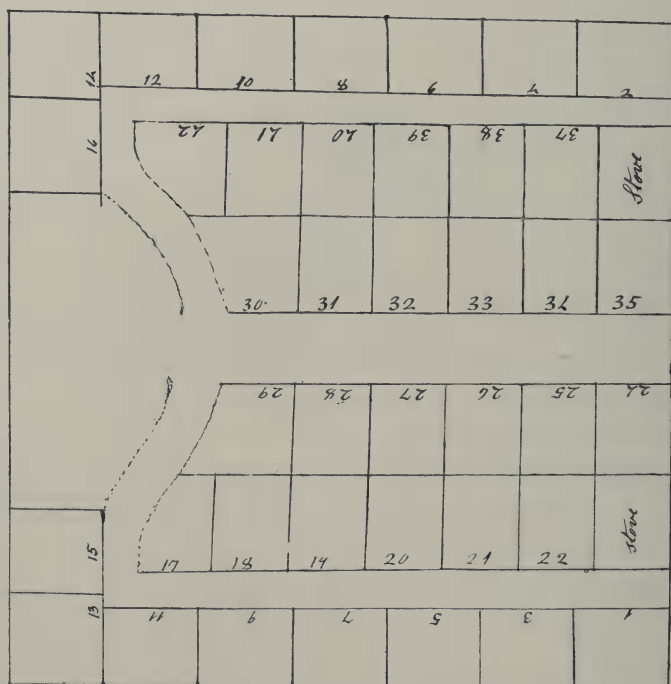
In 1726, the Town of Wethersfield ordered that parsonage land be set out to Stepney parish; and the latter released to the Old Society all its right in the estate of the "First and most ancient Society of Wethersfield." The land thus set to Stepney was a good part of the square bounded north on Parsonage Street, east on Russell Street, south on Centre and west on West Street, the amount given being 60 acres. Sixty acres was the quantity asked for by the new parish and is described as being north of the Stone Pits and south of Cold Spring. Cold Spring was the section along Brook Street, north of the road to Griswoldville, or Two Stone, as it was formerly called. There is a spring on the west of Brook Street, one-eighth of a mile north of the Corners from which, and other springs further on, this section obtained its name. Of this the first minister got eight acres in the northeast corner with a northerly front of but a few rods, but extending south nearly halfway the length of the road, as his own property. West of the eight acres given to the minister, the parish kept, until 1850, twenty other acres lying along the north side of the plot, for the use of succeeding ministers of the Society. During the life of the first minister (Mr. Russell), he had the use of some portion of the rest of the property. In 1764, the parish voted him the use of one-half of this land during his lifetime, to lie in common, until a dividing fence could be made. Mr. Russell died soon after this, and in January, 1765, the parish passed







THE INN SIGN OF THE OLD ROBBINS' HOUSE,  
Rocky Hill.



PLAN OF THE PEWS IN OLD STEPNEY CHURCH, before the change  
to slips, and about 1840. Found among the papers of Mr.  
Charles Williams, dec'd, 1886.—R. W. G.

the following vote: "Voted, to sell the parsonage, all but 20 acres across the N. end (viz.) that Capt. John Warner, John Robbins, y<sup>o</sup> 2d, and Elias Williams should have power to set s<sup>d</sup> land up at Vendue to be sold at, or to the highest Bidder, s<sup>d</sup> Land to be set up at Less than £9 per acre the first bid, and not to be set up more than 8 acres at a time and not less than 4 acres at a time, and to begin at the north part next to the 20 acres that we Reserve for the use of the minister; and there shall be a privilege between the s<sup>d</sup> 20 acres and the hind of the Rev. Mr. Russell's Land of one rod wide and acrost those parts that may be purchased the northern parts, to extend so far South as those that purchase shall Desire, those that want it to give for that as they bid of the other Land, they fencing on the west side of the gangway, and those that purchase to do half of the fence next to Mr. Russell's heirs and next to Nath'l Robbins against their own; and after said land is sold, the above mentioned persons shall have power to secure it for the term of 999 years—they that purchase to make over said Land to the Society, and to put in about as much more land, or a Bond of about the same sum for a surety that they will pay the lawful interest yearly, and that the interest shall become due upon the first day of December annually and that every one that said land is bid off to, shall put in a forfeiture of one shilling on the pound either in cash, or a note, for all such sums as they shall bid off amount to, to bind them to fulfill their parts."

It was also voted that "if any person or persons that shall bid off the parsonage Land shall pay the principal sum, that then ye above Comm'te, or their successors, shall have power to let out said money, taken [ing] Double Security for the same in Lands, or Bondsmen."

Under these votes, a large part of the property was leased. In 1771, upon the petition of Samuel Russell, son of Rev. Daniel (and who seems to have come into the possession of the 8 acres given his father, and who had taken some of the land put up at vendue) asking to be relieved from his venture, the Society voted to so release him, upon conditions as to interest, etc., and also that he should allow and secure to the Society a highway of one rod wide across the south end of his 8 acres, to be properly fenced.

It would appear from the first of the above quoted votes, that Nathaniel Robbins owned some part of the land included in the square, of the parsonage land; but, at which corner, cannot be ascertained.

All of this land was not disposed of at the first vendue, as appears from the following Society vote, in 1771. "That the Com'tee that was appointed to lease out the parsonage land should set the land up to

a vendue, and set it up at £9 per. acre; and if it wont fetch more, not to sell it; but to Improve it some other way: but, in case any person bids it off, s<sup>d</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> to have power to Lease it out y<sup>e</sup> same term of time y<sup>e</sup> other parsonage land was leased for, taking the same security if they Caint no better." In December of the same year, the Committee were empowered to lease the property at £8; but it seems as though under this last vote, the remaining portion of the parsonage land was disposed of (the 20 acres before mentioned, excepted); as there is no further vote on record in relation thereto—except as to the 20 acre piece.

From the lease of this parsonage property, and the payments on the principal for which it was disposed of, there was created a fund for the Society's use, to which occasional reference is made on the records. The care of real estate, the improvement of the land and its fencing, etc., seems to have been a deal of trouble to the parish; and it is probable that the interest from the proceeds of its sale was better than the returns from the land itself. In August, 1807, while the new church was being builded, and the Society was availing itself of every possible source of income, it was "Voted, that all the public money belonging to this Society be sold, provided it will sell for the full value, and the money be appropriated towards the expenses of build'g the new Meeting House, and that Mr. Frederick Robbins, the Society Treasurer, be impowered to sell the same and pay over the Money to the Com<sup>tee</sup> for building the said Meeting house." By the term "public Money" here used, was meant the notes, or other securities which had been taken for the sale of the parsonage land (*minus* the 8 acres given Mr. Russell and the 20 acres reserved for his successor). The amount of interest at that time received from this parsonage land (and which come from loan certificates and notes) was \$88.42 per year. And thus departed the parsonage land, except the 20 acres on the north side, which continued in use for the ministry until 1850, when it was leased to Wm. W. Warner for \$860—for a term of 999 years.

*Bequests to the Church Society.*—In 1768, the Church records show a vote of Thanks to JONATHAN BULKELEY for an "elegant flagon" presented to the Church by him—probably for Communion uses. This was Jonathan (son of Edward) Bulkeley, and he was part owner of the "Dividend Mill," and died in 1776, aged 64.

In 1781, GERSHOM (brother of the above Jonathan) BULKELEY, received the thanks of the Stepney Church for "a proper napkin"—to be used probably for communion purposes, or at baptisms. This donor died 1806, age 87.

Mrs. MERCY (second wife of Mr. Josiah) GRISWOLD, of Rocky Hill, and who died 3 Nov., 1819, left by will to the Ecclesiastical Society of Stepney, the sum of £100—\$333.33—which sum has always been loaned out at interest. In the words of the will it was devised “for the sole use and support of a minister in said Stepney Society, of the Congregational or Presbyterian denomination, and to no other use or purpose whatever.” See, also, our Chapter on Rocky-Hill, Physicians, and Midwives, of which latter, Mrs. Mercy Griswold was a noted representative.

RACHEL LEWIS, for many years a resident of the town and a member of Rev. Dr. Chapin’s family, died 9 Oct., 1819 aged 57, and by will bequeathed “a sum of money, not exceeding \$130 for the purpose of procuring suitable furniture for the Communion table,” etc. The communion service procured under this bequest was first used May 6, 1821, and is still in use. The gift remains on loan, and the Church gets the interest.

MARY ROBBINS, the youngest and the survivor of four daughters of Richard Robbins, whose home was on Brook St., north of the old Parsonage Corner, and who died May 1855, gave by will to the Rocky Hill Ecclesiastical Society \$600. These sisters, Rhoda, Rachel, Abigail (“Nabby”) and Mary (“Polly”) were known as “the Old Maids” and their home as “the Old Maids place.” Mary died at the age of 73. This fund of \$600 which she left, and of which the Society came into possession in 1858, was invested in Hartford bank-stock and by stock dividends the six original shares have become eight full shares, the interest of which accrues to the Society’s purposes.

*Church Fashions, Manners and Accommodations.*—It was not until 1766 that men and their wives sat together in the meeting-house; and it was not done even then without the sanction of a special vote, applicable only to those who had the dignity of “pews.” The old house of worship had, at first, only benches of a rude sort; from time to time, and extending over a period of many years—even to the latter years of the old meeting-house buildings, pews were put in, a few at a time. Except in these, the men and women sat apart. Down to as late as 1855, at Conference and other meetings, and similar gatherings, the men sat on one side of the house and the women on the other. The first break in this custom, was made in 1856, by Dr. Rufus W. Griswold’s taking a seat with his wife. “Age, Estate, and qualification” were respected, in this old custom of seating (or, as it was sometimes called “dignifying”) the meeting-house; for it was a period when if the Clergyman, the Squire, or the Doctor passed along the road, every



boy they met took off his hat and "made his manners," or if a girl, "dropped a curt'sy." In the same year (1766) it was voted that all young men over 18 and young women over 16 should be "seated"—the first intimation that, in this parish, males and females of those respective ages were not children. Children at that time, did not sit with their parents, as now, but were kept apart under the watchful eye of some deacon, or tythingman. In 1768, this seating of young persons was extended so as to apply to males of 21 and females of 18; and about the same time, also, was adopted the new notion of allowing persons to "choose" their seat-mates—that is, allowing the heads of families to agree to occupy together—enough of them to fill up some fixed pew, which they preferred. Yes, though this custom subsequently prevailed to some extent, they, none of them, abated one "jot or tittle" of their "dignity."

As evidence of the importance attached to this matter, we cite a vote passed in 1756, "*Voted*, that Lieut. Thomas Curtis should sit in the corner pew, next the sixth pew". Also "*Voted*, as followeth: the fore-seat next the great pew, the corner-pew next, the second-seat next, the new pew next the great alley, and the pew next the corner-pew, to be equal; the pew west of the door next; the north pew, the pew next to Mr. Russell's to be next; the north pew by the stairs next; the third seat equal to the north new pew."

Illustrative of the care taken as to the young men in meeting-time, in those days, the following vote from Wethersfield records may be quoted—for the same "oversight" was maintained there as here.

At a town meeting Lawfully assembled in Wethersfield on the 6th day of Jvly, Anno Domini 1710;—At this meeting Sergt. Nathll. Staddart and Jabez Whitlesey, were chosen to take the oversight of the youth that sit in the lower part of the meeting hovse, viz. all the youth that sit below, and James Bvtler chosen to have the oversight of the youth that sit in the galleries, these persons to have the care and oversight of ym. for one year or more, to endeavor the keeping of ym. in a due order, and that they take especially care that said youth sanetifie the Sabbath that they make no distvrbence in the time of pblic worship."

The *pews* in the Meeting house were mostly square pen-like structures, rather high, with seats around the sides. The top rail of these sides were ornamented with top-shaped wooden balls: and when the pews were taken out of the edifice, at a later day, these ornaments naturally fell to the boys of the parish—every boy had his "meeting-house top." Says Dea. Jared G. Dimock (who was five years old when the meeting-house was cleared of its pews) "We all had tops then, and they were *good* ones,



too!" Many of the pews had small tables in the centre, for holding Bibles and hymn books.

*Bell.*—In the olden times, the "drum beat" was the ordinary method employed by the "church militant" to call its votaries together to occasions of worship.

*Church Music.*—During Rev. Mr. Russell's ministry the singing of Dr. Watts' Version of the Psalms was introduced into the service of this Church in 1756, by a parish vote.

It is interesting to note that at a meeting of the then newly organized Stepney Society, held Dec. 5, 1726, it was "*Voted*, that our annual Society meeting, shall begin at eight o'clock in the morning, att the beat of the Drum, any former vote to the contrary, notwithstanding."

Again, January 1728, "Then we subscribers, agreed with Elihu Dixenson for the sum of 24 shillings to take care of y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house and to sweep s<sup>d</sup> house for this year ensuing and to beate y<sup>e</sup> Drum 3 times on each Sabbath day throughout this year, and also to beat y<sup>e</sup> Drum for callin together inhabitants att the Society Meetings"—(signed) Edward Bulkeley, Joseph Grimes, Comm. and Elihu Dixinson.

And the drum probably supplied the want of a bell for many, many years after this date. In 1830, a bell was placed on the Church; and with it a *Clock*, which was always known as the Town Clock, because it was purchased by a general subscription among the people at large. It had a striking attachment and did good service until about 1865, and, off and on, for a few years later—since which it has been idle.

The "curfew bell" of our English ancestors, became in New England the "nine-o'clock" evening bell in many parishes—some of which still continue its use—as also for calling the people to weekly evening prayer meeting, and marking the advent of "noon". The bell was also used, with scrupulous exactitude, for "tolling" the death of any inhabitant of the town—viz. the "attention call," then the "sex" and then the "age", as also the "passing bell" as the hour of burial—a custom continued up to about 1880, since which it has gradually fallen into disuse. Notice of Sabbath service has been given at a little past nine A. M., with the "meeting-bell" an hour and a quarter later: Day-services, both forenoon and afternoon, were continued up to about 1873: and from 1830 there was also an evening service; since 1873, however, the afternoon service has been omitted—the morning and evening services alone remain.

Not long after the introduction of the bell, the "rising generation" began to ring it on the mornings of the "Glorious Fourth", The "morn-ing" was sometimes construed by them to begin at "sunrise", sometimes again at 12 o'clock on the night of the 3rd and kept up until sunrise.

This "too previous" commencement of the Fourth was always more or less of an annoyance to the villagers, and at times has been the occasion of struggles between the Church Committee or some individual on the one side, with the "irrepressible boy" on the other. Generally, the Church Committee has been rather lenient with the boys in their fun; at other times they have frowned upon it—usually, however, with the same result—that strategy on the part of the boys has accomplished the coveted end. When a church door key could not be surreptitiously obtained, the boy has climbed the lightning rod; when the rope has been removed by a watchful sexton, the youthful invader has reached the belfry and swung the tongue of the bell; and when the tongue itself has been removed, some ingenious boy has forged a new one at the smithy. Sometimes the sexton has been intimidated, sometimes pelted with rotten eggs until he fled the ground. If, as not often chanced, the offender was arrested, he was never convicted. At the Centennial of our National Independence, 1876, this church-bell 4th July bell-ringing almost culminated in a riot.

*Ministers.*—The Congregational Church in Stepney afterwards known as the *Third Ecclesiastical Society in Wethersfield*, was organized, June 7, 1727, and on the same day the Rev. DANIEL RUSSELL was ordained and installed. He was the seventh of the nine children of Rev. Neadiah Russell of Middletown, Ct., who had been one of the founders of Yale College, and also one of the authors of the Saybrook Platform. The son Daniel was born June 3rd, 1702; graduated at Yale College, 1724; and was guided in his theological training by his brother William, who had succeeded to his father's pulpit in Middletown. His salary was fixed at £80 a year, or £60 and the use of the parsonage property, for the first four years, to be increased at the rate of £5 per year, until it amounted to £100 (\$333.33); and at this figure the minister's salary continued until, in 1847, a colleague was engaged for Rev. Dr. Chapin. The parish also voted Mr. Russell, for himself and heirs, eight acres of the parsonage land, as one of the conditions of his settlement; and £160 (to be paid partly in work) towards building him a house. This was erected upon the N.E. corner of the eight acres aforesaid, and remained until some seventy-five years ago. The tax for the minister's support was to be paid partly in grain, or other farm produce, at fourpence, ( $6\frac{1}{4}$  cts.) for corn, fivepence for rye and sevenpence for wheat. About 1750, or earlier, there began to be such a depreciation in the paper currency that the representative of the silver dollar had a less purchasing power than before, so that, by 1755-6, its value was only that of a sixth of a dollar. Mr. Russell was at this

time, receiving £600 a year in paper money. Directly after this came a "New Emission" which seems to have been of the same value as silver, so that the minister's salary went back to the old figure. Later still, there was another disturbance in the circulating medium, and when Mr. Lewis (third Stepney Minister) was settled, in 1781, his salary was put at £50 silver, or its equivalent. At this time, the silver dollar was worth several of the Continental currency, and the purchasing power of £50 silver was likely as good as that of £100 in the second quarter of that century.

Mr. Russell, on the 13th of November, 1728, married Lydia, daughter of George and Rebecca Stillman. By this wife, who died Sept. 3rd, 1750, the Rev. David had ten children. He married (2) July 29, 1752, Catharine, daughter of Rev. Nathaniel and Sarah Chauncey, of Durham, Ct. The Rev. Daniel Russell's earthly labors were closed by death, September 16th, 1764, in the 38th year of his pastorate. He was buried by a grateful church, and the inscription on his tombstone reads thus:

"Here lies Interred the Remains of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. DANIEL RUSSELL, who wisely and faithfully fulfilled his ministry for more than 37 years with a shining pattern of piety in his Christian and Ministerial Character and fell asleep the 16th of Sept. A. D., 1764. Aged 62 years."

His widow, Catharine survived him some thirteen years, dying Jan. 10th, 1777, aged 71.<sup>1</sup>

"The first members of the church," says Rev. Dr. Chapin, "were Joshua Robbins, Jonathan Curtiss, Benjamin Williams, Jacob Williams & David Goodrich. It is added, "Admitted then"—Joseph Deming, Richard Robbins & Jonathan Boardman . . . . Here is an ambiguity. My opinion, however, is that the former five were taken as already members of a church, and here constituted without repeating the confession of faith and covenant; and that the latter three had never been members of any church.

"The following members were received soon after by letters from Wethersfield:—Mary Boardman, Jerusha Goodrich, Dorothea Bulkeley, Sarah Robbins, Zebina Smith, Hepzibah Curtiss, Sarah Holmes, Hannah Wright, Eunice Williams, Sarah Ruby, Comfort Morton, Mabel Boardman, Abigail Deming, Hepzibah Goodrich, Elizabeth Hollister, Abigail Williams & Anna Holmes. From Glastonbury, Abraham Goodrich.

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<sup>1</sup> Acknowledgments due to Rev. Frank Russell, of Bridgeport, Ct.; Boyd's *Annals of Winchester, Conn.*, p. 291.

"The foregoing 26 names are all that are found in near connection with the formation of the church. Whether the whole number must be understood as having been received the same day or not does not appear; but probably not.

"It seems impossible to obtain a complete history from the papers of Mr. Russell. There is no extant evidence that he had a book of records. His journals are found on leaves very slightly fastened together. They are consequently torn, ragged, mutilated. Words and proper names are gone. Whatever may have been the chirography, the ink was either bad at first, or of such a quality that it has at least in some instances faded almost to disappearance. Hence his memoranda are unintelligible. Hence, too, a possible incorrectness, especially among the personal names above written. In such cases the names here expressed are merely conjectural.<sup>1</sup>

"The instrument known as the *Confession of Faith & Covenant*, as used in the earliest existence of this church cannot be found entire. The portions of it which do now appear among the loose papers remaining show that it was, we can believe, needlessly prolix, & therefore tedious. In 1781 it was altered by the church; but whether shortened at all does not appear. It was certainly very long, & to invalids it must unquestionably have been tiresome and consequently unedifying.

"In 1797 the following form was adopted by this church, viz:—  
'You do now, with solemnity, in the presence of God & of these witnesses, receive God in Christ to be your God—one God in three persons, Father, Son & Holy Ghost. You declare it to be your belief that the Scriptures of the Old & New Testaments are the revealed word of God; & you promise by divine grace, to make them the rule of your life & conversation. You own yourself—yourselves—to be by nature a child—children of wrath; & you solemnly declare that, truly repenting of all your sins, as you humbly trust, you hope for pardon & salvation through the atoning sacrifice & mediation of Jesus Christ alone. Him you now publicly profess to take for your Lord & Savior, your prophet, priest & king. You give yourself—yourselves—away to him, to be governed, guided & eternally saved. You promise, by divine grace, regularly to attend all the ordinances of the gospel as God shall give you light & opportunity. You also promise to submit to the rules & government of Christ in this church so long as you shall continue in this place. You thus solemnly profess to believe & covenant with God & his church.' "

<sup>1</sup> *Mss.* Sketch of the 3rd Eccl. Soc. of Weth. (Stepney Parish), now in possession of the Conn. Historical Society, written about 1840.



After Mr. Russell's death, the Rev. Eliphalet Webster preached in this parish for a time.

The Rev. BURRAGE MERRIAM, (graduated Yale College, 1762) who for some time previous had been a colleague to Mr. Russell, succeeded him, being ordained and installed 27 February, 1765.<sup>1</sup> He is supposed to have come from Meriden; and but little information concerning him remains to this day—except that the Church Records seem to have begun during his incumbency. He died November 30, 1776. He builded the two-story gambrel roofed house now owned by the Walter Warner heirs, on the East side of the road, opposite the Capt. Webb place, formerly the Capt. Wm. Griswold house. This lot extended north to the land of Walter Robbins, including the land on which now stand the houses of E. N. Warner, Benjamin Webb, the small house north and the Ryer Hotel.

In addition to the salary voted to a minister it had always been the custom of the period from 1700, or earlier, for a century on, to make "a settlement" on a pastor, when he entered upon parish service. In accordance with this custom, Mr. Merriam had £200 voted to him, in two instalments of a year apart; also the use of twenty acres, on the north side of the parsonage property. This lay next to the east and west road, and west of the north end of the eight acres which had been given outright to Mr. Russell. The balance of the parsonage property, as appears from the annual votes of the Society, was leased out to parties for improvement, the income arising therefrom being used to make up any deficit in the minister's salary. In addition to these sources of ministerial support, the clergyman was always supplied with wood—generally described on the record as "good green wood," sometimes with the addition "hickory or white wood." The amount carted to Mr. Russell was from 25 to 28 cords; Mr. Merriam got a little less, and Mr. Lewis, from 14 to 20 cords, as his family wants increased.

After Mr. Merriam's death, Messrs. the Revs. Gershom Bulkeley, Fuller, Atkins, Lyman and Wolcott preached here; and the parish extended "a call" to a Mr. Baldwin, which, however, was not accepted.

The Rev. JOHN LEWIS was the *third minister* of Stepney. He was from Southington, Ct., and was installed here 24 January, 1781,<sup>2</sup> receiving the same salary as his predecessor. He was a graduate of

<sup>1</sup> "Hartford, March 4 [1765]. Last Wednesday, the Reverend Mr. Burrage Merriam was ordained to the Ministerial office over the Church and Congregation, at Stepney, in Weth. The Reverend Mr. Eells of Middletown preached a Sermon on the Occasion."—*Conn. Courant*.

<sup>2</sup> "Hartford, Jan. 30 [1781, Tuesday]. Last Wednesday, the Rev. John Lewis



Yale, 1770, had been a tutor there from 1773-'78 and was esteemed as a man of much learning. His wife was Mary, a daughter of Col. Leverett Hubbard, of New Haven. He built the house in Rocky Hill, afterwards owned and occupied by his successor, Dr. Chapin—who speaks of him as “a first rate scholar and minister.”<sup>1</sup> He died 28th April, 1792.<sup>2</sup> His one published Sermon was entitled: “*Christian Forbearance to weak Consciences a Duty of the Gospel.*” The substance of two Sermons, preached at Stepney Parish in Wethersfield. By John Lewis A. M., *Hartford*. MDCCCLXXXIX, 8 vo., 42 pp.

His letter giving an account of the Whirlwind in Wethersfield in Aug., 1787, gives the impression that he was a close observer; and that he possessed, what in these days would be called, a decidedly “scientific turn of mind.” Dr. Chapin, his successor says:—“He appears to have delighted in classical study & attainments. He compiled and published in pamphlet form a copious selection of sentimental sayings found in the writings of men pre-eminent thousands of years ago. He was a decided believer in the correctness—as he understood divine revelation—of that anomaly in the church usually denominated ‘the half-way covenant.’ He published a labored essay in defense of his views upon this subject. When he was removed by death he left the people very unanimously & strongly attached to that practice.”

After his death, the pulpit was supplied for a time by the Rev. Benjamin Boardman, and a Mr. Brown.

The *fourth minister* of Stepney and the one, who more than any other of the series, possessed a reputation extending beyond the bounds of his own parish, was the Rev. CALVIN CHAPIN, D.D. He was a descendant, in the fifth generation from Dea. Samuel Chapin, from England or Wales, an early and very prominent settler at Springfield, Mass., and who, after a life of Christian activity and usefulness, died in 1675. The subject of our sketch born 22 July, 1763, was the fourth of six sons, of Dea. Edward Chapin of the same town, a man of public spirit and, as his wife was also, of exemplary piety. This

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was ordained to the work of the Ministry, over the Church of Christ in Stepney, a parish of Weth.”—*Conn. Courant*.

<sup>1</sup> See Sprague's *Annals of the American Pulpit*, ii, 324, Note.

<sup>2</sup> “On Tuesday last, were interred the remains of the Rev. JOHN LEWIS, Pastor of a Church in Weth. The appearance of the Congregation convened for religious service on that occasion was a proof of how much they loved him. Mr. Lewis died in the 46th year of his age and the 12th of his Ministry, and has left an afflicted widow, and five small children. By his death, Science has lost an Ornament; Humanity a Friend; the family a tender husband and parent, and the Church of Christ a Pastor who wished to approve himself to his Master, and the Consciences of all men.”—*Conn. Courant*, May 7, 1792.

son, as may be supposed from the name which they gave him, was especially devoted by them to the Christian ministry. His early years were spent upon his father's farm, and his early preparations for college met with several interruptions, one of which was the Revolutionary War, in which, for a time, he served as a fifer, being then about ten or twelve years old. In the autumn of 1784 he entered Freshman at Yale, being distinguished through his college course for his studiousness; and won, also, the Berkeleian prize, known at that day as the "Dean's bounty." He graduated, one of the best scholars in his class, in 1788; and opened a school in Hartford, Ct., which achieved much popularity, and which he conducted for two years. Then, having undergone a great moral change, deeper than his previous speculative belief in the truths of the Christian Religion, he conceived the idea of entering the ministry, and commenced the study of theology under Rev. Dr. Perkins, of Hartford, of whose church he became a member. Still continuing his school, he pursued these studies for some time, and was finally licensed to preach, by the Hartford North Association. About the same time he was elected a tutor of Yale College<sup>1</sup>—upon the duties of which office he entered in the autumn of 1791, and discharged them with good satisfaction, both to the faculty and students until his resignation in March, 1794, to take the pastoral charge of the church at Stepney, where he was ordained and installed April 30th, 1794.<sup>2</sup> He was never dismissed; preached to his congregation until Thanksgiving Day, 1847, and his official and pastoral connection with them terminated only with his death, in March, 1851.

On February 2nd, 1795 he was married to Jerusha, daughter of Rev. Dr. Jonathan Edwards, of New Haven, Ct., Dr. Chapin's "settlement" was £200 lawful money, to be paid, in quarterly instalments, within four years. His salary was fixed at £100 per year, and the use of 20 acres of parsonage land. After his retirement from the pulpit, this 20 acres was hired by Moses W. Williams until its final lease, in 1850, to William W. Warner.

Soon after he entered upon his ministry, it became evident that his influence was not to be limited to his own parish. In 1805, he was elected a Trustee of the Missionary Society of Connecticut, and during the 26 years in which he held that office, he attended no less than 72 meetings of the Board. In 1806, difficulties occurring in Northwestern

<sup>1</sup> And as such he had the educational charge of Jeremiah Day, afterwards President of the College.

<sup>2</sup> Discourse delivered at the Ordination of the Rev. Calvin Chapin to the ministerial office in the Third Church of Wethersfield in the Parish of Stepney, April 30, 1794. By Nathan Perkins, A. M. Hartford, MDCCXCIV, 8 vo., p. 38.

Ohio, in the Society's operations, Mr. Chapin, though the youngest member of the Board, was delegated to ascertain and settle the trouble, whatever it was—a service which he performed to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. The extensive tour which this involved, served greatly to enlighten him as to the self-denial and hardships of a missionary life, and to enlist his sympathies in the cause of Missions. In 1809 he was a foremost promoter, both with his pen, and as a traveling agent, of the Conn. Bible Society. In 1813, he was similarly active in the organization of the Conn. Society for the Promotion of Good Morals; in 1810, he was one of the five, who projected and formed the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and was its first (and for 32 years) Recording Sec'y. He was one of the visitors of the Andover Theological Seminary, and Clerk of its Board for 15 years, and until by age limitation, he had to resign it. In 1816, he was made Doctor of Divinity by Union College and in 1820, was elected a member of the Corporation of Yale College, of which he was a most efficient member until his resignation in 1846.

In November, 1847 he retired from active service, to give his people an opportunity to choose a successor. This, however, was not effected until July, 1850, when the Rev. Lebbeus B. Rockwood was settled as colleague pastor.

A Rev. Philo Judson was hired as a supply and candidate for some time. He was, however, well along in years and not wholly acceptable, being somewhat eccentric; but he was of service in the pulpit, and the instrument of many conversions. He remained in Rocky Hill and followed the book agency business; and died in the Hartford Hospital, in March, 1874; was bu. in the extreme N. W. cor. of the present cemetery, where no stone marks his grave.

On May 5, 1844, Dr. Chapin preached his 50th Anniversary Sermon. The Church had then been organized 117 years; it began with eight members; at the time of his installation it had twenty-seven; in the intervening period there had been 591 admitted to membership; and the number then (1844) in the church, was 244.<sup>1</sup> He had then baptized 939 persons; married 435 couples and attended 898 funerals, and administered the sacrament between 500 and 600 times. As he con-

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<sup>1</sup> A memorandum of Mr. Chas. Williams makes this 298. Also that before the end of his active service he had made up the number of marriages performed by him to 430, also that there were then but three persons who belonged to the Church where Dr. C. was ordained. There were at the time of his coming here, 90 married couples in Rocky Hill village, every one of which had been divided by death, "and only 3 couple living who were married by Dr. Chapin—one of which was Mr. Chas. Williams and wife."

tinued in active service for some three years later than the date of his Anniversary Sermon, these figures must have increased.

Within a few weeks after his resignation as sole pastor, his wife, with whom he had lived nearly 53 years, was taken from him by death. He preached for the last time on the last Sabbath in December, 1850; and worshipped in the sanctuary with his people March 9th, six days before his death which occurred March 16, 1851, aged 87 years. Two Sermons were preached on his death, one by Dr. Tucker, of Wethersfield, the other by Dr. Hawes of Hartford, both of which were printed.

Dr. Chapin was justly esteemed as one of the foremost advocates of the Temperance Cause. In 1812 he first advocated the principle of entire abstinence from ardent spirits. Up to that time he had kept his sideboard well supplied, as was the custom of those days, with liquors. From that date he abolished them in his personal use and family.<sup>1</sup> And, in 1826, he published a series of articles in the *Christian Observer*, in favor of the abstinence from *all* that intoxicates.<sup>2</sup> This ruled out the use of *cider*, of which, hitherto, he had annually manufactured a very superior article, from his own orchards.<sup>3</sup> Indeed, his usual earnestness

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<sup>1</sup> *The Rocky Hill Temperance Society*, founded in 1819, of which Rev. D. Chapin was president and Dea. Israel Williams, secretary, issued in October of that year a Constitution, from which we quote the following excellent articles:

"IV. We will regulate our practice by the principle that neither hospitality, nor politeness, nor civility requires us to give ardent spirits, either to visitors or neighbors, relatives or strangers."

V. In selecting laborers whether for work in the house, or on the farm, or in the shops or anywhere else, we will give the preference to those persons who are willing to labor without ardent spirits, and we will carefully discountenance the use of such liquor as drink by those whom we employ.

VI. We will let it be understood and known by the people who are to labor for us, that we do not wish them to be more weary at the close of the day than they would be were we to give them ardent spirits, and that they may expect to receive their wages in full, even if they shall have done less work in consequence of this abstinence. We will thus prove that our object is not to save money for ourselves, or to do harm unto others, but to testify unto all concerned that no lawful employment requires such drink, and that the use of it is both needless and dangerous."

It took *courage* to subscribe to such a statement in the year of our Lord 1819!

<sup>2</sup> This was probably the result of his Missionary trip, before alluded to, through the Western Reserve (Ohio), 1826, on which he published a pamphlet giving the observations on the too free use of whiskey in that section.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Charles Williams says: "These pieces, short but comprehensive, attracted much attention and were continued weekly for at least two years. After it became known who the writer was, he put his temperance principles in active operation, by rolling three or four barrels of cider from his cellar and spilling them on the ground. For several years previous to this, his people used to turn out in the Spring and give the good Doctor a "spell" in cutting up his firewood, etc. He always, on such occasions, brought out pails of nice cider and baskets of apples, which made these occasions quite popular, and often fifty or seventy people attended.



in whatever he undertook, carried him to the very bottom of the evil—to such a degree as led him to induce his people to exclude wine from the communion table, and substitute water therefor. This was in June, 1843. It may be assumed that the majority of the Church members voted for the substitution; but there were some so opposed to it that they preferred to accept the sacrament in other churches than their own, on Communion Sabbaths. The disaffection went so far, and made so much trouble in the church, that, in January, 1846, after the adoption of a long set of “Whereases”, in which the disgust of the old Doctor is very manifest, the Church compromised on a newly manufactured “pure fruit of the Vine”, instead of *wine*; and passed the following: “*Whereas*: a drink is offered in market for sacramental use, and publicly and solemnly declared to be “fruit of the vine” *unadulterated and pure*; and,

“*Whereas*; hope is indulged that the sacramental use of *that* drink will satisfy and unite all the communicants”, therefore

*Resolved*, That \* \* \* \* the officers of the Church shall consider themselves authorized and requested to procure and present it in the cup for the Lord’s Table”, and the dissenting members were invited back to their home communion. Mr. Solomon Griswold, who was a determined opponent of Dr. Chapin’s views in this matter, addressed letters to the Congregational ministers of the neighboring parishes, requesting their views as to this new departure; and from sixteen (nearly all to whom he wrote) he received replies unanimously condemning the innovation. Yet, it may not be presumptuous to enquire, if Dr. C. was not in the right? Earlier than any of his parishioners, or of his clerical brethren his eyes had been opened to the evils lurking in the wine cup, “when it is red”. Doubtless he saw that in some instances the sacramental drink, blessed though it had been for the holy purpose of its institution, became a stimulating incitement to unfortunate indulgence, and set fire to an appetite which could only be subdued by an absolute refusal to touch, taste or handle. Doubtless, also, he saw that the object of the institution of the Communion service, was simply to preserve *in remembrance* the death of Christ, and that such remem-

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But, when the cider stopped, the older people began to lose their interest in the doctor’s wood-pile. The doctor’s cider was very strong, and made thus: The full barrels were set out on the North side of the barn when cold weather came, and allowed to freeze as solid as possible. A hole was then made through the frozen part to the liquid near the centre—and the liquid part drawn off. It required the unfrozen part of three barrels to make one barrel and this was put into tight casks and kept a year or more before being used—the result was a drink that was, probably, almost as potent as New England rum.”



brance could as well be perpetuated in water, as in wine. It was the act and the heart that was in the act, and not the *vehicle* through which this death was kept in remembrance; and the earnest, brave and brainy old pastor who filled the pulpit of Stepney parish for more than fifty years, had the logical acumen to see beyond the mere letter of the translation, into the *spirit* which underlaid the institution of the Last Supper, and upon which all its significance rested. And it was in him to believe that the Soul of Man could lay hold on the Redeemer as acceptably and effectually in the water, as in the wine.

When the Conn. State Temperance Society was formed, in 1829, he became Chairman of its Executive Committee, and in 1835 his *Prize Essay on Sacramental Wines* was published.

Dr. Chapin was also, an early and foremost Abolitionist, and advocated the cause whenever he could do so, without giving offence: "still," says Mr. Williams, "the people liked to hear him talk, although not agreeing with him in sentiment."

Dr. Chapin was distinguished for exactness, enterprise, unflinching *courage, tact* and *humor*. In regard to his independence and courage several striking anecdotes are told in Dr. Sprague's *Annals of the American Pulpit*.

While on this subject, as relating to Rocky Hill, we may also state that among the memoranda left by Mr. Merriam Williams, was a list of names for the years 1819-1823, inclusive, of persons making cider at his mill, near his barn on Elm St. The large apple crop of that period and of more than a hundred years before was not like the winter-fruit of the present. It was mostly for cider, a large part of the trees being on their original stocks, and bearing abundantly of "cider apples". Fifty to a hundred barrels of cider in the cellar was not uncommon among the farmers. Mr. Wait Warner tells me that up to the time he was a young man, (say 1830) a pitcher of water was rarely seen on the table; cider was the usual drink, being used in lieu of tea and coffee, then not so much used as now. In the boarding-houses of the period, the eatables were flanked by pitchers of cider. Large quantities of cider brandy were also made. The price by the barrel (31½ gals.) of cider, say 60 years ago, was 40 cents. Delivered at the still, the farmer got six quarts of brandy, making the latter 26 cents per gallon. New England rum and rye-gin stood in at about the same price, so that the first cost of a drink was much less than now—while the *after cost* may have been just as heavy.

The Doctor's characteristic *tact* (as well as a phase of his *humor*) was shown in an incident related by Mr. Charles Williams, thus, "Dur-

ing the 'Millerite' excitement of 1840, a Mr. Henry A. Chittendon, and an associate from Chicopee, lectured here several evenings, and endeavored to convert people to their faith; and, among other things they determined to convert Dr. Chapin. An afternoon was appointed for their call upon him, and they took the pains to advertise their intention, by speaking of it in public. Of course, some one carried the news to the Doctor, and he was prepared for the visit. The regular meeting of the Millerites this evening had been appointed for 6 o'clock and the two called upon Dr. C. at 5 o'clock, were shown into the study, and after they were seated, the Doctor commenced a conversation with them, he doing the principal part of the talking and he kept it up for the full hour; when the bell rang for their meeting, he stopped short with the remark 'I have done my talking, now if you have anything to say, I am ready to hear you.' The poor visitors, who had not had a chance to 'get in a word edgewise,' had no time to say anything, for the bell was then ringing for their meeting; and so far from making the Doctor a convert, they had not, according to their own statement afterwards, even mentioned the subject on which they had come; yet, both of them declared that they never passed a more interesting hour in their lives than in listening to the Doctor's talk. He afterwards said, when questioned about it, that he did not want to hear 'their stuff' and so concluded to do all the talking himself."

His jovial disposition and ready wit were salient features of his character. This, says Rev. Dr. Hawes, "gave a complexion to a large part of his conversation, I may say, in some degree, to his whole character. It seemed as natural to him as his breath, and even if you had regarded it as an evil, you would have seen at once that it was incurable. It often found vent, I am persuaded, when he himself was unconscious of it, or when a moment's reflection would certainly have repressed it. I might detail many examples of it [Rocky Hill, to-day, is full of examples of this bubbling good humor and quick repartee, which, however, are too local in their character, to be repeated in this history.—EDITOR]—many of his fitting and pungent sayings—but their effect was so dependent upon his peculiar manner, that they would convey a very inadequate idea of the power in this respect, which he actually possessed. I will not dissemble my conviction that this strong original propensity which settled into habit, though it may have been an advantage in some respects, was not, on the whole favorable to his influence as a minister. It sometimes operated as a covering to the real and deep concern which he felt for the spiritual welfare of his fellow-men. He was evidently a devout man, and lived in intimate communion

with God; and you could often see the workings of a truly spiritual mind, blending themselves with the involuntary and irrepressible sallies of his boundless good nature."<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Chapin always retained and cultivated his taste for classical studies, and his Latin and Greek books were his life-companions.

It is said that, at some time in his early life, he learned the book-binder's art; and that after becoming the pastor at Stepney, he bound several books, and rebound some of the old and delapidated record books of the parish.

It was a current belief among the old people of his charge, that he had a trace (about an eighth) of Indian blood in his veins; and that he showed this in his countenance and athletic figure and bearing. If so, it certainly did not in least detract from his moral and intellectual force and ability.

Dr. Chapin was acknowledged to be of more than ordinary ability, among the ministers of his generation; and this reputation brought to him, at one time, the offer of the Presidency of Yale College. That he preferred to remain, on a small salary, and in a small town, rather than accept such a position, may seem strange; but it must be remembered that, in his day, there was less difference, than now, between parishes, either as regards the pay given, or the *prestige* of a city pulpit, over that of a country church. The man of brains in the sacred desk was quite as likely to be found in the small place, as in the larger one; and Dr. C. was no inconspicuous example of this. He was, also, much attached to his people and they to him; it was not easy to tear out the roots which had grown him to the soil; and there was also this, that it was, in his day, the rule that the minister should spend his days in the one parish—and it was not much to his credit, if he shifted from one place to another, with the ease of a weathercock.

Dr. Chapin's published works were as follows:

1. *A Sermon delivered at the Ordination of the Rev. Samuel Whitelsey* to the work of the gospel ministry in New Preston, Washington, Conn., December 30th, 1807; and at the Ordination of the Rev. Hosea Beekley to the work of the gospel ministry in Dummerstown, Vt., March 2d, 1808. Hartford, 1808, 8vo., pp. 24.

2, 3. *Two Sermons published in the Columbian Preacher*, 1808.

4. *A Sermon delivered in Hartford*, May 18, 1814, before the Conn. Society for the Promotion of Good Morals. Hartford, 1814, 8 vo., pp. 34.

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<sup>1</sup> Sprague's *Annals of the American Pulpit*, II, 329.

5. *A Sermon Delivered 14th of January, 1817, at the funeral of the Rev. Timothy Dwight, D. D., LL. D., President of Yale College, in New Haven, and Professor of Divinity in that Institution; who died January 11th, 1817, in the sixty-fifth year of his age, and twenty-second of his presidency.* New Haven, 1817, 8 vo., pp. 35.

6. *Sermon at the funeral of Rev. John Marsh, in March, 1821.*

7. *Essay on Sacramental Wines, 1835.*

*The Revival of 1818.*—In 1818, there was a marked religious “revival” in the church and town, during which there was much house-to-house visitation and many “protracted meetings” held by Dr. Chapin and the famous Evangelist Rev. Mr. Nettleton. Among other agencies employed were what were termed “sunrise meetings,” which were largely attended in the early mornings. Mr. Nettleton was here for six months, and there were many conversions. Dea. J. G. Dimock, among his reminiscences of this revival used to relate this story of Nettleton. Among other “anxious souls” on whom he called, was Sally Holmes. “*I shall be lost, I shall be lost!*” was her wail to the preacher. “*You are lost*” was his quick response, and a new light broke in upon Sally and she became converted.

The Rev LEBBEUS BURTON ROCKWOOD, colleague to Dr. Chapin, became his successor 10th July, 1850. He was born in Wilton, N. H., August 8, 1816; graduated from Dartmouth College, 1839; studied theology at Andover, Mass., and Union Theol. Seminary, N. Y. City; was ordained in 1845; labored for a time in Richmond, Va., was then engaged for about seven years in raising funds for the Union Theol. Seminary. He resigned from his charge in Rocky Hill in 1859; accepted the District Secretaryship of the Am. Tract Socl. for Conn., in which service he continued until his death at Boston Highlands, Mass., 7 May, 1872. His wife was Abby Ann Abbott; his salary \$600 per year until about the last year of his service here, when it was raised to \$700. He built the flat-roofed house, now (1886) occupied by Mr. Roe, on the south side of Prospect Street, overlooking the meadow; and back of it he set out an orchard running back to New Street.

Mr. Rockwood was succeeded by Rev. GEORGE MUIR SMITH, a native of Scotland, April 9, 1859; a graduate of Edinburgh and New Haven Theological Schools; he married while here, the widow of Clarence R. Cordis. He preached here until June 24, 1863, and removed to Lenox, Mass., and in 1886, was settled in Sterling, Scotland. His salary here was \$600 per annum; after leaving Rocky Hill, he was settled at Boston Highlands, Mass.



His successor was the Rev. HENRY FORD, a native of Binghamton, N. Y., who preached here from the spring of 1864, to that of 1867. He came from Stamford, Ct., had studied theology in New York City; went hence to Norristown, Pa., and in 1886, was in Jersey City, N. J. His salary was about \$600.

The Rev. MERRICK KNIGHT was next installed, November 6, 1867, and continued until March 13, 1872. His salary was \$700.

From January, 1873, to the autumn of 1877, the Rev. WM. P. FISHER was pastor; salary \$1,100. At the time of his coming here, the parish felt itself in a prosperous condition, with a good outlook ahead. The railroad, then just finished, had brought in many new inhabitants, new houses were being erected, etc., but the seeming prosperity subsided in about two years; and, on his last year's salary, Mr. F. remitted \$300. He was a native of Canada, a graduate of Amherst College, 1866, and studied theology in Union Theol. Seminary, N. Y. City and in Germany. Previous to his coming here he had been preaching to a Presbyterian Church at Norwood, N. J., and from here he removed to Brunswick, Me., where he was settled in 1886.

Rev. S. Y. LUM was pastor here from the latter part of 1877 to April, 1879, salary \$900.

Rev. WILLIAM MILLER, from April, 1879, to December 31, 1881.

Rev. C. S. AYER, from July, 1884, to July, 1885.

Rev. EGBERT N. MONROE, from July 1, 1885, to December, 1887.

Rev. AARON C. ADAMS, 1888 to November 2, 1893.

Rev. CLAY D. CHUNN, March 12, 1894, December 31, 1896.

Rev. HENRY H. DAVIES, June 1, 1897, October 31, 1898.

Rev. LORING B. CHASE, May 1, 1899, October 27, 1901.

Rev. WILSON R. STEWART, February 2, 1902, present incumbent.

In 1843, the church membership ran as high as 224; in 1870, it fell to 114, when, by reason of the influx of population consequent on the opening of the railroad communication, the number began to increase.

*The Congregational Sunday School* of Rocky Hill was organized in September, 1818, through the influence of Mrs. Tracy, wife of Hon. Uriah Tracy, Jared Goodrich being superintendent, and under a set of rules formulated by the Rev. Calvin Chapin, pastor. The school was sustained until October, 1821, when it was discontinued until about 1830, at which time Dea. Jared Williams was its superintendent. In 1839, we find the constitution of the *Rocky Hill Sabbath School Society*, as it is then called, so altered and amended as to be totally unlike that of 1818. The previous stringent regulations concerning the attend-



ance of the children on divine service, the use of blue and red cards of merit and demerit, the "one cent books" used as prizes, and the strong hints at expulsion which characterized the earlier document had all disappeared, and in place thereof was an "Article 14" providing for a meeting of teachers "at least once in 2 weeks" to select the lessons for the two Sabbaths next following. In 1841, when the school had 23 teachers and 144 scholars, 80 professed faith in Christ and joined the Church. In 1858, there were 155 persons in the school, and 10 scholars became Church members; there was also a circulation of 100 copies (each) of the *American Messenger* and the *Child's Paper*, 20 of the *Journal of Missions* and 7 of the *Sailor's Magazine*. The school from 1849-'55, increased greatly in numbers, influence and the amount of its contributions to religious and charitable objects. It was, until 1876 (50 years from its birth) in all respects independent of the Church, except for *moral* support, but in that year was formally *adopted* by the Church. Its superintendents have been: Jared Goodrich, Dea. Israel Williams, Dea. Jared Dimock, Dea. Thos D. Williams, John Bulkeley, Edward F. Robbins, Calvin J. Burnell, Rev. S. Y. Lum, Albert C. Griswold, Edward N. Warner, Daniel W. Dickinson.

Among its active friends and helpers, also, should be enumerated the wives of the ministers of the Church, and the names of Mrs. Maynard, Mrs., Woodruff, Mrs. Tryon, Mrs. Geo. M. Smith, Mrs. Means, Mrs. Lord and Mrs. Horace Williams.

*Other Ministers Resident in Rocky Hill.*—In the autumn of 1871, Rev. ASA D. SMITH came to Rocky Hill, and bought the house next west of Capt. New. Robbins' corner, built by E. G. Ward. Mr. S. had been a missionary among the Indians in Oregon, in 1838, making the journey there on horseback, with his wife—a four months' trip. After a few years, he was transferred to the Sandwich Islands, where he labored as missionary until 1845, when he returned to U. S., *via* Canton and the Cape of Good Hope. Before coming to Rocky Hill, he had preached at two or three places, where he also performed some faithful service. In 1883, with his wife, he removed on a missionary enterprise to Sherwood, Franklin County, Tenn., where he died, 10 February, 1886.

About 1870, Rev. FRED W. CHAPMAN located in Rocky Hill, but, though he occasionally preached on a Sunday, was not connected with any church. He had been in active ministerial service at Wolcott, East Hampton, South Glastonbury, and other places; afterwards had kept the Boys High School at Ellington. He was an enthusiastic genealogist, and had collected and published the histories of the *Chapman*,

(1864), the *Pratt* (1864), the *Trowbridge* (1872), the *Buckingham* (1872), the *Bulkley* (1875), and the *Coit*, (1874) families; and during the latter part of his life was engaged upon the following similar works, which were left, at his death, in manuscript form, viz: *Belden*, *Blinn*, *Boardman*, *Buck*, *Butler*, *Deming*, *Francis*, *Goodrich*, *Griswold*, *Hale*, *Latimer*, *Reynolds*, *Riley*, *Warner*, *Waterhouse*, *Williams*, *Wolcott*, *Wright*. These labors, printed and unprinted, fully entitle him to the name of "The Wethersfield Genealogist."

*Rocky Hill Men who have entered the Ministry*.—ELIZUR GOODRICH, 1774, preached in Durham, Ct.; GERSHOM (gt-gd-son of Rev. Gershom) BULKELEY, grad. Y. C., 1770, preached at Cromwell, then at Middletown Upper Houses from 1778 to 1808; JOSHUA (s. of Capt. Elias) WILLIAMS, in the latter part of the last and early part of the present century, settled at Harwinton; COMFORT (son of Elial and gd-son of Elias) WILLIAMS, graduate of Y. C., preached in Rochester, N. Y., and died there 1825, æ. 42; JOHN PRICE, a Baptist minister, studied at Suffield, perhaps elsewhere, d. at Buckland, Mass., where he had been ord. and settled; he was son of John and Harriet (*Wetherell*) Price of Rocky Hill; CORNELIUS SHIPMAN, grad. Y. C., rem. to Indiana when a boy; was a missionary to S. I.; ALFRED B. GOODRICH, b. abt. 1826, (s. Levi G., 2d), learned the printers' trade with his bro-in-law (Walter S. Williams (s. of Ackley Williams) of Rocky Hill, and was for many years a successful book printer in Hartford), ent. Trinity College about 1845; ord. to Epis. ministry; rector of Church in Utica, N. Y.

*Deacons of the Stepney Church*.<sup>1</sup>—The published Manual of the Third Church of Wethersfield, which was organized 7th June, 1727, gives as the first certainly *known* of its deacons, the name of THOMAS CURTIS, chosen to that office in 1781. During the preceding 54 years which had elapsed since the church's organization, there had been deacons of course; and Rev. Dr. Chapin mentions, *as of tradition*, Deacons DAVID GOODRICH, BENJAMIN WRIGHT and NATHANIEL ROBBINS. This evident lack of knowledge regarding the Stepney diaconate is due, *first* to the fact that for nearly an hundred years (1765) there seems to have been no existing church records; and for several years after that date the records were but fragmentary in character; *second*, that, hitherto, no determined attempt has ever been made, *outside* of the church records, to hunt up information upon the subject. The *Society* records, beginning in 1726 make mention of Deacon BENJAMIN WRIGHT in 1729; and, in 1730, of Dea. JONATHAN CURTIS, who was the first (as of

<sup>1</sup> Condensed from (29 pp.) a *Historical Address* delivered at Rocky Hill Church, 28 October, 1888, by Dr. Rufus W. Griswold.

record) elected Clerk of the Society, in 1726. The last mention of his name is in 1732. For many years, and down to January, 1753, Dea. Benjamin Wright, was for the greater part of the time Moderator of Stepney Society Meetings. In 1733 and '34, DAVID GOODRICH is spoken of as deacon. The legitimate conclusion from these data is that Jonathan Curtis and Benjamin Wright were elected deacons at the organization of the church in 1727; and that Mr. Curtis dying in 1732 or '33, Mr. Goodrich was chosen deacon in his place that year, or the next. Benjamin Wright died in 1753, and was succeeded as deacon by EBENEZER WRIGHT.

The first record of death among the early deacons, is that of Ebenezer Wright, September 20, 1766, of consumption; the next is that of Nathaniel Robbins, 6 October, 1783, of smallpox, ae. 76; the next is of David Goodrich, 14 July, 1785, in his 91st year; the next that of Thomas Curtis, November 6, 1789, in his 80th year. This brings us to the printed record in the Manual, and we can now proceed to complete the list.

JONATHAN CURTIS, } elected at the organization of the Church in  
BENJAMIN WRIGHT, } 1727; *which* had precedence in election does not  
appear.

DAVID GOODRICH, elected 1733, to succeed Dea. Curtis, who had died the previous year.

EBENEZER WRIGHT, elected 1753 or '54, to succeed Dea. Benjamin Wright, deceased 1753; Dea. Ebenezer Wright died in 1766, and was succeeded by

NATHANIEL ROBBINS, who, together with his senior deacon David Goodrich, *resigned* in 1781, Robbins died in 1783; Goodrich in 1785.

ELIAS WILLIAMS, } Chosen deacons 1 May, 1782; but Williams de-  
THOMAS CURTIS, } clined to serve and

JOSIAH HUNTINGTON was elected in his place, 29 Aug., 1782. Dea. Thomas Curtis died in 1789, and

EBENEZER GOODRICH was elected in his place, 5 July, 1789. In 1794, Dea. Huntington removed to Farmington, Ct., and

BENJAMIN WRIGHT (2d) was elected deacon, 8 June, 1794; that year or the next, he removed to Berlin, Ct., and the Church chose

ELIAS DICKINSON as his successor, April 19, 1795. Dea. Ebenezer Goodrich resigned in 1805, and

ASAHEL MERRIAM was elected his successor, Dec. 8, 1805. Dea. Goodrich died 19 Sept., 1813, ae. 80. Mr. Merriam died June 18, 1808, of consumption, ae. 37, and was succeeded by

SETH HART, elected 24 July, of that year. Dea. Elias Dickinson resigned in 1811 (dying, Nov. 22, 1822, ae. 80) and

SIMON BUTLER, succeeded him by election, 11 May, 1811. Seth Hart died 12 Dec., 1813, ae. 53, and

HEZEKIAH WHITMORE succeeded to him, 17 Apl., 1814. In 1829, both Dea. Butler and Dea. Whitmore resigned (Butler died 29 Dec., 1831, ae. 77; Whitmore died 27 Feb., 1842, ae. 84); and to them succeeded

ISRAEL WILLIAMS, } chosen 31 May, 1829. Israel Williams removed  
JEHIEL ROBBINS, } to Terre Haute, Ind. (where he subsequently  
died, in 1838), and was succeeded by

JARED G. DIMOCK, elected 14th Oct., 1838. In 1843, Dea. Jehiel Robbins removed to Plainville, Ct. (where he died 1851, ae. 68), and was succeeded by

JOEL GOODRICH, elected 13 Sept., 1843; died 26 Dec., 1851, ae. 68, and THOMAS D. WILLIAMS was elected in his place, 25 Jan., 1852; Dea. Williams died 4 Dec., 1881, ae. 62, and in 1882,

WILLIAM G. ROBBINS was elected to fill the vacancy.

EDWARD N. WARNER, his associate, was elected; resigned 1897.

HORACE R. MERRIAM, elected 1897.

Not much has come down to us, concerning the *personality* of these old deacons, except the bald data thus given. JONATHAN CURTIS, BENJAMIN WRIGHT and DAVID GOODRICH were prominent citizens at this (the Rocky Hill) end of Wethersfield, when Stepney parish was set off from the town in 1722; they were also foremost in the organization of the parish in 1726, and the establishing of the Church in 1727. CURTIS, probably, resided below Drum Hill, on what is still known as "Curtis Corner," at the beginning of the 20-rod highway reservation, which extended west across "Beset (Amobeset) Plain" and past the turnpike to Cabull and Three-Mile Hill and on to Masabesset River, at the southwest corner of the present town. That he was a well educated man for his day, is evidenced by the chirography of the old record begun and kept by him for many years. Both he and Dea. Wright were of the oldest families of the town. Dea. DAVID GOODRICH was probably a son of that Capt. Ephraim Goodrich, who is set down upon the old map of 1721' (see Map at p. 373), as residing on the plain now known as Dividend, a little way north of the southeast corner of the town, and facing the river. He seems to have held the deaconship for 48 years.

Dea. NATHANIEL ROBBINS was the eldest son of Joshua Robbins, Jr., and was born September, 1708; he was the grandson of John



Robbins, "Gentleman," so named on the Wethersfield Record in 1640. Dea. Nathaniel married (1736) his cousin Mary, daughter of Richard, and sister of Esquire John Robbins, of Rocky Hill; was a farmer.

Elias Williams, though, by reason of his declination of the honor conferred upon him by the Church, not reckoned in the line of deacons, was a very large landholder in the Stepney district, and a man of importance in the community.

Dea. THOMAS CURTIS, whom we suppose to have been the T. C., who, in 1741, married Dorothy, daughter of Edward Bulkeley, was probably a descendant of either John, or Thomas Curtis, original Wethersfield settlers. He probably resided on the corner referred to in connection with Dea. Jonathan Curtis.

Dea. JOSIAH HUNTINGTON was not of any old Wethersfield family (the name is rather of Norwich origin), but probably "married in" to the town. He lived somewhere by "the Landing," perhaps in the Jacob Williams house.

Dea. BENJAMIN WRIGHT, second of the name in the Stepney diaconate, probably resided under the hill, at what is now the Andrew Miller place; removed to Berlin a few months after being chosen deacon.

Dea. EBENEZER GOODRICH resided on the corner where Dea. Jared G. Dimock now lives, though in an older house; he was a farmer, tanner and shoemaker.

Dea. ELIAS DICKINSON lived where Mrs. Abijah and Edward W. Tryon now reside. His son Harvey lived where Mrs. Charles Beaumont now lives—the east part of that house being a part of the old Dickinson house. Elias was grandfather of Caroline and James Dickinson, not many years deceased; he was a carpenter, his shop in the road close by his house, on Parsonage Street.

Dea. ASAHEL MERRIAM was a son of Rev. Burrage Merriam, second pastor of Stepney. He resided where Mr. Jos. Warner now does—on the site of the stockaded house of 1704, called "Fort Deming."

Dea. SETH HART was a tailor; probably of Farmington origin; his house and shop (where he also kept drugs, etc.), both now gone, stood opposite the smithy on Ferry Street.

Dea. SIMEON BUTLER, descendant of the early Joseph, was a miller at the south end of town; resided on the corner where his ancestor Joseph probably lived in an older house and where his (Simeon's) son Capt. William lived. Dea. Simeon probably built the present house—later rebuilt by Robert Sugden, Jr., a few years ago.

Dea. HEZEKIAH WHITMORE, probably a descendant of Thomas, the Settler, 1639, was a cooper; resided on Hill Street, next east of Chas.



Williams' present residence. He had a shop there, and an earlier one north of the Oliver Pomeroy store at "the Landing." It is of tradition that he came here from "down the river."

Dea. ISRAEL WILLIAMS (son of William and grandson of Elias), married Mary, daughter of John Rose; resided some time with his father, where R. C. Griswold now lives, and also in the Bulkeley-Rose place; he was for some years a merchant in Wethersfield village.

Dea. JEHIEL ROBBINS, son of Zebulon (probably the Jr.) Robbins, was father of Mrs. Elizabeth Bliss, a present resident of Rocky Hill. He lived in the brick house which stood where Thomas Warner's heirs now live, at the top of the long hill at the north end.

Dea. JARED G. DIMOCK, son of Samuel and gd-son of Joseph, ship-carpenter, resided on the Ebenezer Goodrich corner. He entered the Stepney Church choir at the age of eleven; from 1834 to 1880, Dea. Dimock led the singing at church prayer meetings, and other religious gatherings. Taken in connection with his many years of diaconal service, this is a rare and honorable record of Christian service and activity.—See *Dimock*, Vol. II.

Dea. JOEL GOODRICH resided in the West District, on the triangle of land occupied by the present West Methodist Meeting House. He married Annie Bunce.

Dea. THOMAS DANFORTH WILLIAMS (son of Merriam, gd-son of Elial and gt-gd-son of Elias), had his boyhood's home where the Misses Williams now live. After his marriage he lived in the West District, on the main road "as you go out West." His wife was Mary Jane, daughter (by his second wife) of Capt. Jason Boardman.

Dea. WILLIAM G. ROBBINS, son of Roswell R. and gd-son of George Robbins, gd-son, on his mother's side, of William Robbins, 2d; and comes of the same family as Dea. Nathaniel Robbins.

Dea. EDWARD A. WARNER, of an old Wethersfield family, is son of Walter Warner; his wife is Fanny G. Welles, of South Wethersfield.

*Clerks of Stepney Society.*—Jonathan Curtis, elected 1726, died 1732; Edward Bulkeley; Joseph Williams, 1733-1751; Ebenezer Wright, 1751-1757; Thomas Curtis, 1757-1782; Joseph Bulkeley, 1782 Dec., 1818; William Robbins, 1818, served eleven years after 1822, he signed as William Robbins, 2nd; Walter W. Bulkeley, served 5 years; H. P. Hall, served three years; Henry Whitmore, served thirteen years; Edward F. Robbins, served seventeen years; Samuel Dimock, served five years; C. J. Burnell, served two years; Smith (?); Samuel Dimock, served three years; David C. Griswold, served two years; William G. Robbins, from 1880.

*Treasurers of Stepney Society.*—Elias Williams, 1767, re-elected down to 1796; James Stanley, 1796-1804; Frederick Robbins, 1804-1818; Levi Robbins, 1818-1842; Merriam Williams, 1842-1853; Samuel Dimock, 1853-1854; Henry Whitmore, 1854, and by re-election till 1867; Jared G. Dimock, 1867-1876; William G. Robbins, 1876-1878; Charles C. Butler, one year; Henry R. Taylor, two years; Rufus W. Griswold, Dec., 1879. The first Treasurer's Record of which there is knowledge began in 1804. Up to 1825, the treasurer was paid a small fee; since that date it seems to have been considered that the *privilege* of handling the Society's funds is an adequate compensation for the trouble!

*The Care-takers, or Sextons of the Old Church* have been: John Church; a second John Church (probably son of the former); Elisha Church; a third John Church, down to the erection of the new house of worship—truly an appropriate *Church-ly* family succession!

The first substitution, in the Society records, of Dollars and Cents for Pounds, Shillings and Pence was in 1799, since when all accounts have been in decimal currency.

*Schools.*—[Judge Adams, in Chapter IX, has already given a brief summary of Rocky Hill's school history. In addition to what he there says concerning the schoolhouse of 1712, Dr. Griswold remarks—*H. R. S.*] "That it should have been built at this place for the accommodation of the south end of the parish, seems strange, for it is hardly probable that there were any houses at this time, from between near Dix's corners and Goffe's brook. I think there was one house at the corner, south side and one where the Adams house is. But, it is certain that the centre of population and of whatsoever else there existed must have been as far south as where the first meeting house was built, and there were some houses in the south part of what is now Rocky Hill. From Dix's corner to the site of this schoolhouse is about one mile and a quarter; and from thence to the south line of the town three miles; so that a building put up here was not erected in conformity to the vote above quoted. Without doubt, there were, at this time, houses below Drum Hill, and at Dividend, when the Bulkeley corn-mill had been many years in operation. But an old map (maker unknown) of Rocky Hill Street and Village in 1721,<sup>1</sup> locates a school-

<sup>1</sup>This old map which will be found as an illustration at page 373, of Chapter IX, does not extend as far north as Goff's brook. It is evidently intended to show Cole's Hill or about halfway on the N. and S. line through the town, on the main road. On it are located the places of Jonathan Deming (cor. Parsonage St.); Sam. Williams (W. of the Burying ground); Mrs. Bulkeley's lot (about the corn-mill); and "Capt. Goodrich's living" (extending from the River,

house at the point named, and marks no other. The evidence, therefore, is that the first public school building was at this point.

But that it was not in a satisfactory place, is evident from the fact that soon after there was a movement for another building. It is likely there was trouble over the location; for in 1718, the General Court, having been petitioned in the matter, a committee of that body recommended two schoolhouses, one on the hill by Grimes', the other on the hill by Widow Sam Cole's. Cole's hill was the point where the burying ground was afterwards located; a schoolhouse was built there, probably at the head of the road that runs west from the cemetery. Where was the "hill by Grimes" is not exactly certain; but likely the top of Long hill was meant: and as there was a building already near there, it is probable that that was continued in use for one of the houses. Joseph Grimes, probably the first Grimes in Rocky Hill, had come here from Lexington, Mass.

There is no further record, to my knowledge, about the schools here, till after the formation of the Stepney parish. Dec. 5, 1726, at a meeting

above Dividend lot, West). Our impression is that this map was used before the Assembly, in the matter of some trouble being had concerning the location of a School-house.

The reason why a school had been located on Cole's Hill (which was below the half-way mark) was probably the better to accommodate the children from the New Farms neighborhood. At this time the present Elm St. had not been opened. A road ran W. "by Deming's" and another by "Samuel Williams". Deming lived on the N. corner of Parsonage St. and Williams on the South corner; W. of where the Burying ground was afterward located. Both of these roads opened out into the Common, on land still belonging to the Town. This Common, or undivided land, came up from the West to certainly as far East as Russell St.; and this map shows it as all open West to the Beckley road that came from the brook running by the Adams Mill and ran Southwest. The W. end of the road by Sam. Williams was continued on W. by a cow-path through the woods that ran along on the high ground to the E. of the Present road, leading to West Rocky Hill, and which came out by the Stone-pit, along where now runs the lane leading to the old Boardman-Holmes house. I suppose the "Western Farmers," as they were called were located in the neighborhood of the present New Farms Street. It would, therefore better accommodate the children there to have a Schoolhouse on Cole's Hill than to have it further north, as their traveled path to the Centre came out on the main road by Sam. Williams' house. This road was part of the lane that comes to the Boardman house from the West; further east, the line can still be traced on N. side of the Hill East of the Boardman house; then it went on the S. side of the knoll S.W. of present residence of Dea. Dimock. Why this road W. of its present end, just beyond the Alpheus Goodrich (Wm. Grimes') house was abandoned, does not appear. It was probably given up when the road across the swale and to the N. was opened. I judge that it may not have ever been fenced in from the adjoining lots, and, perhaps, never legally laid out as a public road. It was not in a straight line after getting E. of the Boardman house; but deviated according to the lay of the ground for advantageous travel.

of the voters of the new society, Richard Robbins, Abraham Moris, and Sam'l Belding, Jr., were chosen School Committee. This was the first School Committee of the parish proper,—previous to this time all matters had been managed by the school society. At this time there must have been some 80 or more children of school age in the parish: An old record gives 77 in 1718, presumably of school age. Feb'y 5, 1728, in Society meeting,—“it was agreed, by vote that the school house now standing on Cole's hill shall be moved and set in the most convenient place between Samuel Williams southeast corner of his pasture and y<sup>e</sup> south end of the meeting house.” The language would indicate that the school house was to be very near the meeting house; and as the meeting house was nearly against where the barn of Wait Warner's now is, we may suppose the design was to have the school house just south of that point. The old school house was not moved immediately, if at all. Feb'y 20, of the same year,—“it was agreed by vote that they would go and build a school house—24 feet long and 16 feet in width.” “to be set up at the northeast corner of William Nott's lot, which lot abuts on the highway from Wethersfield to Middletown”. The exact location of this cannot be determined: it is not important, as no action was taken under this vote at that time. Three years later, 1731, it appears that the General Assembly had “appointed that there should be two school houses in the Society for y<sup>e</sup> keeping of a school among us;” but the parish voted to have “but one school house erected to instruct their children in;” and it was again voted to move the school house standing by Joseph Belding's (the same as on Cole's Hill) to a convenient point between the meeting house and the southeast corner of Samuel Williams' pasture; and the old committee was again instructed to go on with the new house in contemplation; and the General Assembly was to be petitioned for a confirmation of the doings of the parish; it was further voted that school be kept in the meeting house till the school house could be made suitable to keep school in. Dec. 4, 1732, the committee was further instructed to go on with the school house voted in Feb'y of 1728. On the 3d of Dec., 1733, a meeting of the inhabitants of the parish was adjourned from the meeting house to the school house,—the reason for this being that there was no provision in the church building for a fire, while the school building had fire-place and chimney. It would appear from this adjournment that either the building on Cole's hill had been moved up too near the meeting house, or that a new building had been put up,—It is uncertain which; for some things ordered failed of accomplishment. Twelve years after this—1745—it was voted to shingle the



school house anew, with 18 inch shingles. As the shingles at that day were rived out by hand, and often lasted for two or three generations, it hardly seems that a building put up new in or after 1733, should have needed a new covering in 1745. What is likely is that the Cole's hill house had been moved up by the meeting house and was still in use, and that no new one had been erected.

In Dec. 1735, it was agreed by Society vote "that our western farmers shall have y<sup>e</sup> school kept some part of y<sup>e</sup> time out with them." This appears to have been the beginning of teaching regularly in what is now the west district. In March, of 1744, the inhabitants of the western part of the town complaining of the lack of school accommodation, it was voted that the school house be moved to the west end of the land of Samuel Goffe, or a new one built. The west end of the land of Sam'l Goffe was somewhere out by or beyond the turn of the road by Deacon Jared Dimock's residence. It is not likely that this vote was carried into effect. It was also at the same time voted that a school be kept three winter months for the western people.

In the fall of 1751, it was ordered that there should be three schools kept in the society in the then coming winter,—three months each in the north, south and west, and at the school house in Sept., Oct. and Nov.: The three fall months were designated for the whole town; in the winter months, there were three schools, some probably kept at private houses. It would seem from this order that there was then but one recognized school building, though the building opposite the Boardman place may have been in use some of the time. The next winter the town was divided into three parts for school purposes,—the west part beginning at Churchill's lane—supposed to be the present east line of the west district; the other two parts dividing at the school house.

In Dec., 1754, it was voted to sell the school house to the highest bidder. At this point, the matter of school buildings for the different parts of the society began to be seriously considered. In 1756 the parish was formally divided into three parts, the west part being what is now the portion of the west district then in the parish, and the line between the north and south being likely the road from the landing west and its continuation to the west district line. It was at this time voted to build a house for the south part north of Hog brook, at the foot of the hill below the burying ground, and for the north part near the south side of Jonathan Boardman's lot, east of the highway; the site of the 1712 building—and the inhabitants of the west district were released from any expense of these two houses. The house for the south district stood



nearly opposite the present residence of Alfred Griswold (1874), immediately at the foot of Cole's hill, west of the roadway, and in the line of the turnpike afterwards laid out. The north house was right by the large maple tree opposite the old house of the late Jason Boardman, and before him of his father, Capt. Jason, and probably also of his grandfather John, and in the road. The Jonathan Boardman hereinbefore spoken of was a town pedagogue: he was at one time (in 1728), granted permission by the authorities to teach a school. My impression is that Boardman used the 1712 structure for a school on his own account, and the same building was used for like purposes, when the public school rotated to that end of the parish.

School was now kept 15 weeks in the north and south districts, and six weeks in the west. In 1757, the sum of 48 pounds and 14 shillings was voted to pay for building the two new school houses.

The school term in the west district, so far as the parish paid for its support, was limited to 6 weeks in the year, till 1773, when it was voted that thereafter the west part "should have liberty to keep a school among themselves two months and a half a year, provided they build a house at their own cost". The same year it was voted to build two new school houses, one at the north part of the town and one at the south,—the north house to be in the highway near the north side of Rev. Mr. Merriam's home lot, and the south on Cole's hill, between the mouth of the lane leading from the water-side and the dwelling house of Mr. Ephraim Williams. The first of these points was where the then existing building was standing, and the other where the house that there was talk of moving in 1728 had stood; and it was further voted, that "we will take the frame that is already set up for a school house, now standing near the meeting house, for one of the aforesaid new school houses, provided y<sup>e</sup> owners will let us have it for the just value." Evidently there was agitation for another division at this period, and that individuals, in their private capacity, had begun the erection of a third house. The two new ones voted were not built at this time; for in Dec., 1774, the committee was ordered to "do something towards mending the school houses so as to make them comfortable to keep school in this winter season," and in 1786 a committee was appointed to "view the south school house and see if it was worth repairing."

In 1779 it was voted that exclusive of the west district, schools should be kept in three parts,—north, south and middle, three months each, and each to have an equal number of scholars assigned to it by the committee. Thereafter four schools were kept, and appropriations made to each. The "frame" alluded to in 1773 had been completed into a

house, and was used for the centre school. It stood on the triangular bit of land between the roads near the residence of the late Dr. Rufus W. Griswold.

In 1781, the parish was formally divided into four districts, upon the lines as they now exist, except that the north district extended up to the north line of Stepney parish, and the north line of the west district was on the old parish line at that end of the parish. That part of the north district now in the town of Wethersfield, except the first house north of the bridge, was at a later day set off to Harris Hill district of Wethersfield, and about 1860 the district line was brought to the town line and the north line of the west district was extended in 1850 north to coincide with the line between the towns. At this period (1781), the different districts entered upon the management of their own houses.<sup>1</sup> The middle had its house, as herein indicated; and very soon after this time both north and south districts put up new houses,—the former on the site of the old one, of brick, and the latter of wood at the head of the road running west nearly opposite the present brick building in that district, the road being known as Skeeter Lane. The west district, built of wood also, in the road, a little way south of this present brick house. The house of the middle district, also of wood, was used for school, till about 1800, when it was sold to Alexander Grimes and he moved it down by his house, just west of the freight depot, and converted it into a dwelling,—and moved into it. His daughter, Aunt Sophronia, continued to live there after his death for 60 years or more. The railroad as laid out in 1871, struck one corner of it, and it was again moved, and now stands just below the burying ground, north of Hog brook, on the east side of the road to Dividend. This old school house had lapsed to Margaret Jagger, *nee* Grimes, before the railroad was built, and is used for storing and packing polishing-sand. Alexander Grimes lived previously, in the house just south, now moved a little west of Ferry St., The school house of the north district was in use till 1845, when it was torn down, and (being of brick) the materials were turned into the present brick building that stands a little

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<sup>1</sup> In 1796, by an act of the Assembly, the business of managing schools, as also the care of burying grounds, were lodged in School Societies. Therefore, both these matters had rested with the Parish. Rocky Hill School Society took in the first house north of Goff's brook. The Societies continued in existence up to 1856, when they were abolished by act of the legislature. I have made much endeavor to find the records of the school society, but without success; they are past recovery, and with them much of interest is lost. Mr. Merriam Williams and Mr. Levi Robbins, both several years deceased, were long treasurer and clerk respectively, and nearly if not quite up to the date of the discontinuance of the societies.

way south but on the opposite side of the road. The south district house was used for school till 1849, when the present brick one was built, nearly opposite at Peppercorn; it was then moved to the north side of Hog brook, and is now occupied as a dwelling. (1874) Mrs. Charlotte Deming lived in it till her death. The west district house was used till 1850, was then sold to Nehemiah Stevens and moved off, down by his house, and the present brick one erected a little to the north.

The present two story brick house in the centre district was built in 1803; was built in part by a tax on the property of the district, as I have understood, and partly by a private subscription, or by the sale of shares in it. The building was here in 1805,—it being spoken of in a vote of the Stepney records of that date, in relation to the site of the new church building then about to be erected. Mr. Henry Whitmore, deceased, born in 1786, went to school in the gambrel-roofed house on the little park by my residence, till he was a well grown boy. The contractor for the building, Mr. Abraham Jagger, took for a part of his pay the subscriptions, or the shares of stock, made by individuals for its erection: many of these were never paid up, and the job ruined him financially.

*Later.*—In July, 1887, I learn from Mr. Charles Williams that in an old account book of his father's, in his possession, that Jan. 6, 1802, Eliphalet Foster is charged to One share in the Academy £1.10; and in 1803 Abraham Jagger is charged for drawing 1000 brick from the Nooks, for the Academy. This seems to settle the date of the erection of this building. It is likely that Jagger took so many of the shares in the building, that not being able to realize on them, he was bankrupted.

The second story of this building was mostly in one room, and was arched overhead. It was used for a great many years for an academy school, and was known as Academy Hall. There were large fire-places in both stories, the chimney being in the southwest end. This academy school had a high reputation: some of what were called the higher branches of school education were taught, the higher mathematics, including Navigation. It was supported in good repute till the burning out of the building, on the night of the 31st of Dec., 1839 or the early morning of Jan., 1, 1840. The walls were left standing; the inside was rebuilt the next season, and the whole covered in, but the second story was not done off. The lower story was in two rooms; later the partition wall was cut through and sliding doors put between. In 1850 the district leased the upper story, perpetually, to the Rocky Hill Eccl. Society, conditioned that the Society "do off the upper rooms," and thereafter take care of and keep "in good repair all above the floor of said

room, including said floor and the timbers and frame thereof". About the time this lease was made there was organized in the town a Society of Sons of Temperance, who arranged with the Eccl. Society to join in defraying the expenses of finishing up the room, conditioned that it could have the use of it for their meetings. The temperance organization went to pieces in about three years, and its interest in the room lapsed to the Eccl. Society, which has since maintained and controlled it. After this rebuilding of the upper room, it came to be more generally called the Conference room, and was the usual place of assembly for the Congregational church for prayer meetings and the like, up to 1881, when a room for such purposes was fitted up in the meeting house.

This upper room,—both before and since the burning— has been used for divers purposes,—besides for the prayer meetings of the church; for select private schools at many times; for a town high school at different periods; for town meetings, concerts, lectures, shows, debating clubs, library and lyceum associations, festivals, fairs, suppers, singing schools, agricultural club meetings, political caucuses, Episcopal church services (1873), Catholic church meetings (1880), Justice trials, and for a Good Templars Lodge service (1870), etc., etc. For the first quarter of the century many young men of the town learned the science of Navigation in this Academy Hall, and fitted themselves to become captains of the coasters and sea-going vessels out of Connecticut river. Since 1840, school matters in this hall have not been up to the plane of what had obtained in the four decades previous.

In the fall of 1885 the Eccl. Society sub-leased the conference room to the Rocky Hill Library Association, for 10 years, at the rent of \$25 per year, reserving the right for the free use of the room for its own purposes whenever it might desire,—the association assuming the obligations to keep the room and roof in proper repair during the life of the lease. During the period of control by the Eccl. Society, the use of the room was given for school purposes, library associations, temperance societies, agricultural club, singing schools, public lectures, and for various general purposes, without cost, and often at its own expense for lights and fuel, with a generosity not always appreciated.

I have been told that there were two fireplaces in the lower story of this building originally,—one at each end, as there were two rooms. If this was so, then the north chimney must have been taken out at the time of re-building.

There is no known record of the sale of the school house lot, or its



boundaries. Up to 1884, there had been a post and rail fence around an ox-bow shaped piece of land,—the rear representing the hollow of the bow. In the rebuilding of the fence from time to time, the original lot had been encroached upon, but to what extent did not appear.

The following, from the records, is as to original division into districts:—At a meeting of the inhabitants of the parish held in on y<sup>e</sup> 3d day of April 1781, “Y<sup>e</sup> committe that was appointed to Divide y<sup>e</sup> Society into School Destricts made their Report, and it was accepted by s<sup>d</sup> Society, and voted and is as follows (viz’) in the first place to Draw a Line of Division between y<sup>e</sup> South and Middle Destricts, beginning at y<sup>e</sup> Great River, at y<sup>e</sup> place where Hogbrook so called emties it self into said River, and, Running a Northwesterly Course to the Southwest corner of John Benton’s Hom[e] lot, then turning and running a more Westerly Course to the South East corner of Elijah Goodrich’s Hamlot, then runing paralel with y<sup>e</sup> South Side of s<sup>d</sup> Lot till it comes to a Certain Lot of Land belonging to Deacon David Goodrich, then to run north in y<sup>e</sup> line between said Lot and y<sup>e</sup> west side of a Lot of Land belonging to Jacob Reiley to a highway, and then as the s<sup>d</sup> highway runs to y<sup>e</sup> Western Destrict; all south of s<sup>d</sup> line to belong to y<sup>e</sup> South Destrict. excepting Capt. Elias Williams, who is to Join or be set to y<sup>e</sup> Middle School, and all such as shall Live in the House in which he now Dwells, —y<sup>e</sup> middle Destrict having a Larger number of children then y<sup>e</sup> other Destricts, and Less Lists, which Renders it necessary, to bring y<sup>e</sup> Several Districts on nearly an Equal footing. Then 2<sup>d</sup> <sup>ly</sup>, to Draw a Line of Division between the north and middle Destricts beginning at y<sup>e</sup> North-west corner of Prescottt Bulkley’s Hamlot, and running a paralel Line with y<sup>e</sup> North side of Said lot to the Great River, and then running from the forementioned corner a Westerly Course to y<sup>e</sup> South east Corner of Capt Elias Williams South Common Lot, so called, then perralel with y<sup>e</sup> South Line of s<sup>d</sup> Lot till it comes to the western Destrict.”

These lines remain to the present time, though there have been some changes of fences. The lines have been re-surveyed at later dates.

“Capt. John Robbins, Livit Charles Butler, Mr. Jacob Reiley and Mr. Giles Deming were chosen a Committe in behalf of the Society to apply themselves to y<sup>e</sup> Hon-<sup>ble</sup> Assembly to get these division lines established and confirmed.”

From the wording of this note of division between the north and middle district, which speaks of the line going to the Great River, it is to be seen that before this date some part of the meadow had become set to the parish of Stepney—I suppose the line of meadow division to have been at the road east from the Beaver meadow bridge, as Stepney parish



had petitioned for, first in 1746 and again in 1754, and obtained in 1759.

*School Money*—"The Colony's Bounty."—In 1741, it is on record, that "Dea. Benjamin Wright, and Mr. Josiah Churchill, and Lieut. John Warner were chosen a Committee to receive the Colony's Bounty to the School of said Parish, and to use and dispose of the same according to the Act and Direction of the General Assembly, in this case made."

This "bounty," so-called "came from the sale of lands in Litchfield County, given to the older Connecticut towns, by Act of Legislature, for school purposes. Its amount is not specified on records.

In the parish records of 1746, Thomas Curtis and John Robbins, 2nd, were appointed a Committee to care for this fund—then called "Loan Money": and in 1753 Mr. Robbins was paid £2 for his care of it. After that date, no further record appears in relation to it. Mr. Levi Robbins, Treasurer of Stepney Society for several years since 1818, and also many years Clerk of the Rocky Hill School Society, down to the abolition of School Societies in 1856, was uninformed as to the source of this fund (which in 1880, amounted to \$208.77); and, as there is no record of any *other* source than that already mentioned, it seems a legitimate conclusion that the money owed to the town by the heirs of Samuel Goodrich at the present time, is the "Colony's Bounty" of 1741.

This view appears to be corroborated, by a record of the Ecclesiastical Society of Newington, Nov., 1830, in which is notice of the appointment of a Committee by that Society to confer with a Committee of the School Society and to make report about the "division of public money, belonging to the two Societies", about which there had been some dispute. The *School* societies at that time managed all school matters. One of the items in dispute was "the *loan money*, derived from the sale "of lands in certain townships in the western part of the State, done "by authority of the Legislature<sup>1</sup> and appropriated exclusively for the "benefit of schools"—amounting in this Newington case, to \$279.23. I suppose this "loan money" to be from the same source as *our* loan money: so that its origin appears.

In the case above cited, the Ecclesiastical Society reported that the School Society had a legal claim to this "loan money." With us (Stepney) the question of legal claim to the care and use of this loan money was, doubtless, settled when the superintendence of school

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<sup>1</sup> It was not from the authority of the *Legislature* that the parishes had this money; but from the Colonial Assembly of 1740 or '41 likely—the Colonial Assembly being the predecessor of the Legislature of later days.

matters passed from the care of the *Parishes* to that of the *School societies*, by Act of the General Assembly of 1796; and the subsequent transfer (when School Societies were abolished in 1856), of the School Society's functions and responsibilities to the Town.

We may add, for the purpose of obtaining a relative view of the different townships, which formerly composed the original Township of Wethersfield, with each other, as regards *education*—that according to official statistics for 1882, *Wethersfield* had \$3371 in taxable property for each person of school age; *Newington*, \$2241; *Rocky Hill*, \$1385; *Glastonbury*, \$1372. The percentage appropriated that year for school purposes, was, for *Glastonbury*, \$3.19; *Rocky Hill*, \$1.85; *Newington*, \$1.76; *Wethersfield*, \$1.35. But the amounts raised from all sources, *per capita*, was— in *Wethersfield*, \$10.07; *Glastonbury*, \$7.08; *Newington*, \$6.49; *Rocky Hill*, \$5.27. The percentage of school attendance was *Wethersfield*, 91.8; *Newington*, 89.4; *Glastonbury*, 83.9; *Rocky Hill*, 83.3.

BURYING GROUNDS.—January 19, 1730, at a meeting of the inhabitants of Stepney parish, it was “*Voted*, and agreed, that we would have a burying yard to bury our dead in, on that hill known by y<sup>e</sup> name of Cole’s Hill, a little southward of that place where Andrew Attwood formerly erected a cooper’s shop”; and Capt. Ephraim Goodrich, Sgt. Thomas Deming and Mr. Samuel Williams were appointed a Committee to apply to the Town of Wethersfield “for a confirmation of the aforesaid burying yard, and to desire the Town to send a committee to lay it out to this Society”. In accordance with this request, the Town set out to Stepney parish the ground indicated, its original limits being 20 rods north and south on the main road and 12 in width. The cooper shop of Andrew Attwood referred to in the above vote, stood across the road from the corner now occupied by Benjamin Smith, but somewhat further North.

The first interment in this ground was on June 2d of the following year. On a small stone in the northwest corner of the original layout is the inscription, “Here lieth the Body of the Daughter of Benjamin and Mary Deming, born and died June y<sup>e</sup> 2, 1731—the first Buried in this Yard”.

About 1800, the ground was widened, on the west side about 180 feet, taking in a considerable breadth of the strip reserved for the road to the mill; in 1849, was extended north between the roads; and again, in 1859, still further north to its present limits, on a line with the road that comes up from the East. The first extension was taken up by parties in 20-foot square lots, without much payment. The extension of

1859 was divided into lots of 20 by 10 feet, and sold by the single lot to the highest bidder—all expenses of lay-out and fencing being covered by sales. The right of burial only was sold, the land remaining in the possession of the Town.

The gravestones of the Rev. Daniel Russell, Rev. Burrage Merriam, Rev. John Lewis and Rev. Calvin Chapin, whose pastorates (inclusive of about six years interregnums) covered a period of 124 years, are in the old part of the Burying Ground. The gravestones of the first three pastors were set by order of and at the expense of the Town.

When the Rev. Mr. Rockwood left the parish in 1859, he gave to the Rocky Hill-Ecclesiastical Society a burial lot, belonging to him, in the cemetery, for the interment of such ministers of the parish, or of the members of their families as might die here. This lot is in that portion added in 1849. Some years after his removal other parties, totally ignoring the donor's generous intention, took possession of this lot. The Rev. Philo Judson should have been buried therein; but was interred in the northeast corner of the present yard—his grave unmarked.

Previous to the opening of this Burying Yard in 1731, all burials from this community were made in the burial place of the Mother-Town; and for sometime after, even to within present recollection, some have been taken for burial to Wethersfield, to be buried among their relatives and ancestors. It thus happens that a good many Rocky Hill residents (sea captains, and others) who are buried in Wethersfield Cemetery, should be credited to the South end of the old town.

It may be noted here, that Rocky Hill Burying Ground contains very little, indeed, of what may be called "tombstone literature," which interests the visitor to some cemeteries. And this, we consider to be a cause of congratulation. For, no inanimate thing *lies* worse than the churchyard. To be as "deceitful as a tombstone," is to attain to the summit of untruthfulness. The tombstone lies, often, not only in the characters engraven upon it, but in the ostentation of its superior size, and the costliness of its material and the work expended thereon. The misrepresentation of a collection of gravestones is both positive and negative, *positive* when the conspicuous marble is raised by some doting parent over the remains of a son worthless in life and despised by the better part of the community, in which he has worse than wasted his existence; and *negative* when that "Mother in Israel" or that father without reproach, is laid to rest and only the humblest stone is planted; or perchance, the grave is wholly unmarked; and so frequently is this the case that the stranger in any cemetery can hardly obtain a true idea of the relative worth and position in their day and generation

of those who have "passed over to the majority." The Rocky Hill Burial Ground forms no exception to this general statement.

*Beckley Quarter Burying Ground.*—A few rods within the limits of Berlin, at the west, in the Beckley district, is a burial ground, opened in 1760, in which most of the families of Rocky Hill have always buried their dead. For further information about this ground, see *Wethersfield Inscriptions*, p. 288.

Among the old people buried in Rocky Hill Burying Ground, not otherwise mentioned in our historical notes, were: Wid. Lois Andrus, d. 1825, ae. 96; Mrs. Betsy Bulkely, ae. 94; Prudence Butler, d. 1842, ae. 97; Wid. Sarah Butler, d. May 10, 1795, in 98th yr.; Wid. Anna Butler, d. 1828, ae. 91; Thankful Bulkely, d. 1829, ae. 96; Wid. Mary Butler, d. 1845; ae. 90; Ann Church, d. 1832, ae. 92; Rebeckah Edwards, d. 1842, ae. 90; Wid. Sarah Goodrich, d. 20 May, 1789, ae. 84, left 65 gd-ch. and 69 gt-gd-ch.; Dea. David Goodrich, d. 1785, in 91st yr.; Alex. Grimes, d. 1840, ae. 95; Wid. Abigail Grimes, d. 1792, ae. 90; Mrs. Eliza Morton, d. 1838, ae. 92. There are no ages given in the *Old Church Rec.* of persons dying before 1781; there were, of course, some nonogenarians previous to that time, and except a family record here and there, there were *no* record of deaths in Stepney parish until 1765.

#### OTHER RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN STEPNEY.

The first appearance of Methodism in this parish, appears to have been about 1830, when meetings were held in the "old sail loft" over an old store formerly standing just north of the large storehouse once Roderick Grimes', at The Landing, but which had been drawn to a site a few feet northerly from that of the present Wethersfield Church. Archibald Robbins, one of the crew of the brig *Commerce*, who were captured by Arabs and sold into captivity, was, after his release, and return to his home, the keeper of this store. This place was used by the little congregation for about eight years; and a Rev. Mr. Buck is credited as being their first preacher. Later, and for about ten years, services were held at the house of a Mrs. Myers, more recently owned by Mr. Sylvester Goodrich. The society then bought the old William Bradford store, at the river, and moved it to where the present church edifice now stands, and occupied it as their first church building for about ten years. It was only about 24x30 feet in size, was usually filled to overflowing, and soon became quite inadequate to the wants of the congregation, some of whom came over from Wethersfield. About 1843, Rev. John Lovejoy was pastor; his successors were the Revs. John



Hunter, Stetson and Dr. Archer, then a practicing physician. The Steward and Trustees were Talcott A. Arnold, Chester B. Goodrich, B. G. Webb, Jeremy Goodrich. Class Leader, T. A. Arnold, under whose leadership Methodism greatly increased.

The next church edifice was erected in 1859; dedication sermon preached by pastor Rev. Mr. Hatfield, whose successors have been Revs. A. B. Pulling, J. C. Breckinridge, A. Rittenhouse, A. H. Wyatt, Henry Staats, W. Tuttle Bowdish, J. W. Ames, C. Buck, C. Mandeville, C. W. Wilder, T. C. Beach, David Hannaburgh, A. Palmer, Charles Dixon, J. H. Hand, H. D. Latham, George King, Stoddard Simons, C. J. North, James Shipman, David G. Downey, George L. Coburn, C. K. Sturges, T. H. Vincent, J. H. McDonald, T. S. Henderson, J. H. Slater, H. B. Munson, R. W. Raymond.

The old Bradford store building was bought by James Warner, who removed it to his land in Morton's Lane, just east of Gully Brook, where it now stands. T. A. Arnold was, for many years, one of the best ship caulkers on the Connecticut River; his often assistants were Enos Holmes and Silas Collins. Chester B. Goodrich was a farmer, esteemed by all, and for many years a pillar of the Methodist Church. Jeremy Goodrich also was highly esteemed; he lived on Broad Street, west of the cemetery; his brother Sylvester was also a warm and earnest Methodist. This church was burned down February 14, 1895. The present neat and attractive edifice was dedicated 29 January, 1896.

In 1843, the Methodists at W. Rocky Hill put up a small church edifice (still in use as such) on land donated by Dea. Joel Goodrich, on the corner of the Shunpike and Berlin roads. In 1844, Rev. B. Redford was the preacher in this modest little temple. Since that services have been maintained, with some intermission, by preachers sent by Conference, or hired for the occasion, or by students from the Wesleyan University.

*Roman Catholics.*—Services of this denomination were first held at the hall of the Center School-house; the first priest to officiate being the Rev. John Ryan of the Cromwell parish. In 1879, the corner stone of a church was laid, and the building was for the first time occupied in 1881.

*Other Denominations.*—About 1815, (so says Mr. Charles Williams, of Rocky Hill), the *Baptists* made some show of numbers and activity; but they never went so far, we believe—as to effect an organization. A little later some effort was made to establish a *Universalist* society. John Marsh used to come down from Hartford to conduct services. He discontinued his efforts in 1822. About 1876, Mr. M. C. Webster,



then recently removed thither, from Hartford, sought to revive the Universalist worship; but his project failed for want of support.

THE OLD LIBRARIES OF STEPNEY PARISH.—By a species of adoption the present LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF ROCKY HILL, is the heir to four older organizations of a similar kind—the records of which have, happily, been preserved to the present time.

1. *The Social Library*, of Stepney Society. Its records, in the handwriting of Rev. Calvin Chapin, and covering a period of 53 years (1794-1847, inclusive), contain 29 Articles (or By-Laws) and a Constitution, dated 11 Dec., 1794. Mr. Chapin was moderator of the meeting at which these were adopted and was chosen its first *librarian*. James Stanley was *clerk* and these two, with Jabez Riley, were a *Committee of management*. This Constitution, etc., was undoubtedly the work of Mr. Chapin, who was evidently the moving spirit and inspiration of the organization. Following the Constitution in this record are the names, in alphabetical order, of the original subscribers on 11 Dec., 1794—68 in all, four of them being women. The first payments, as subscriptions, or entrance fees, were nine shillings each (\$1.50); later, they were three shillings per year—and then eighteen pence (25 cents). These payments then meant more than the same amounts would now. Books were then comparatively dear, when offset by the price of farm produce. \$1.50 then represented 6 or 8 bushels of potatoes, probably more—and other produce in a like scale of values. We can see that the citizens of that period were quite as ready to contribute of their means for intellectual improvement, as are their successors of the present generation.

A copy of the first bill of books purchased is of record. It mentions 87 volumes, fairly divided between theological works proper, history, travels, poetry and fiction. They were bought in New Haven, of Isaac Beers, Jr., Jan. 7, 1795, at a cost of £26, 13s., 4d., (\$88.90). As there were no expresses in those days to transport goods about the country, some one had to go to New Haven for them—hence an item of 9s., 11d., for horse hire.—A bookcase was bought (at a cost of £2, 11s.)—which is still in use by the present association. The record shows a list of additions to this *nucleus* of books, to the aggregate of 235 volumes—as far as given in the book. Mr. Chapin resigned the librarianship in March, 1795, and was succeeded by Josiah Grimes. The library had no permanent home, and the custodian was often changed, as also was the Managing Committee. Fines were collected for any defacement of books; and in case of loss, the value of the book was exacted.

2. *The Free Library*.—At this distance of time, it may seem singular that a public library so fairly launched into existence under such favorable conditions, and with so large a list of subscribers in so small a village, should almost immediately have a competitor for favor. But, on the 5th of January, 1795, (a little less than a month after the birth of the Social Library), there was organized a "Free Library," at a meeting of which Joseph Dimock was *moderator*, and Wait Warner, *clerk*. And, by the 20th of the same month, 77 persons had subscribed to its Constitution, and paid in their fee of 75 cents, of whom 12 were *women*. Elisha Church was its first librarian. The subscribers' list is of *other* names than those found on that of the Social Library. We have, then, the names of 165 persons paying in their money, at the outset, for procuring reading in a public way, in a village where the population could not well have been more than it is at present, but among whom there was probably more life in that direction than there now is with us. Of the books in this library we have no list; like its competitor it had no permanent fund, or home, and its location and librarian were frequently changed—its earlier meetings were held in the gambrel-roofed schoolhouse of the Middle District, which stood on the little triangular green near the late Dr. Griswold's residence; and now, after several removals, resting on the Dividend road, below the burying ground, and owned by Mr. Samuel Dimock.

A question naturally arises as to why two libraries were thus started in so small a village at the same time? That it was due to some sectarian feeling could hardly have been—since, until many years after, there was but one church organization here. It might have been due to political antagonism, for, just at this juncture—about the end of Washington's administration—the Federal party (the legitimate progenitor of the present Republican party), and the Republican party of that day (the legitimate progenitor of the Democratic party of this day), had become fairly organized and party animosities were beginning to boil up in preparation for the election of '96—with a pungency and acrimony far surpassing any political contest ever witnessed by the present generation, except, perhaps, in the heat of the late Civil War.

Some have thought that the *animus* of the opposition to the elder library, was due to some objection to the character of the books purchased by it. But, in the first place (as the Library List shows) these books were not at all objectionable in character; and secondly, the organization of the second society had been effected *before* the books for the first society had been purchased.

The records of either society make no mention or hint as to the cause

of a separate organization; nor any allusion to each other's existence. They simply severely ignored one another. But there is, in the Constitution of the *Social Library* a point on which we may hang a reasonable conjecture of at least one factor for the difference. Article III, says: "If any person, after this Constitution is adopted and a Library formed, shall wish to become a proprietor, his request shall be granted when he has obtained the approbation of the Committee and paid them the same sum of money each proprietor has already paid, fines only excepted."

Here, probably, was the ground for trouble. The original members of the *Social Library* were a "close corporation;" and their Committee of three had the power to exclude whoever else might apply. Outsiders, naturally, were unwilling to submit themselves to the necessity of approbation of three persons no more than their peers, in any respect; and so, the *Free Library* was started as a protest against this method of doing business. Its fees were also one-half the amount of the *Social's* fees, and gradually the fees of both were reduced. Thus the two libraries went on until 1820. In January, of that year, a new generation having assumed the activities of life, and the old differences having died out, the *Free Library* proposed a conference with the *Social*, with a view to unite their libraries and interests. On March 9th, the two committees reported and the two library associations came together, as the report says: "On the noble principle of generosity." The *Free's* proprietors paid 50 cents and the *Social* 25 cents, as a new fund; the new combination took the name of the original institution, framed a new Constitution and put on record a list of their then (78) proprietors. In this list of names there are but about half a dozen of the 165 original proprietors of 1794-5. Of the 78 in 1820, not one is now living. In the matter of appointments to office, the collection of fines, payment of dues, etc., these library records give us a large number of the male population of the place, from 1794 to 1845; and from no other source can so many be gleaned.

In 1829, the books (some 200 in number) were overhauled and catalogued, and some volumes which were deemed unfit and "superfluous" were sold at auction, with the result of a cash addition to the treasury of \$13.22.

From this time on, the library had an abiding place in Mr. Wait Williams' store (between the present railroad freight depot and passenger station) and he was its librarian, until 1838, when the late Revillo Chapman succeeded him as librarian and store-keeper. He acted as the Library's clerk, treasurer and librarian to the end of the Society's

record—the last item of which is the payment of a tax by Jacob Griswold, in 1847—by which time the Constitution had virtually gone out of active life. Its last purchase of books was a single volume in 1837, numbered 508.

3. In June, 1855, Rev. Dr. Chapin's successor, Rev. Mr. Rockwood inaugurated a 'society "for mutual improvement, especially in connection with a library"—called the *Social Library Association of Rocky Hill*, of which he was made *president and librarian*; Abiel Abbott, *secretary*, and Wm. E. Williams, *treasurer*. This organization was the outgrowth of a Bible class which had met for some time at Mr. Rockwood's house, and which, by donation and otherwise had become possessed of some books, as the *nucleus* of a library. To this society, the old library devised its books (about 220), the bookcase was repaired, books re-arranged and transferred to Mr. Rockwood's dwelling, where they remained until 1860, when, being about to leave the place, he resigned as president and librarian. Dea. T. D. Williams was elected president and Horace R. Merriam, librarian and the books being transferred to the residence of Mrs. Caroline Merriam, continued there until the Autumn of 1866; from thence being taken to the Conference Room; and during all this period, there appears to have been no meeting of the membership or appointment of officers, though the library was kept in active service.

4. *The Rocky Hill Lyceum*.—On January 2, 1860, few citizens met at the Conference Room for the purpose "of considering the propriety of forming an association for the literary culture of the people generally." Of this, the Rev. Geo. Muir Smith was the moving spirit; as also was Willard Lyon, who became the first president. Its scope can be understood from the fact that it had a Concert Committee, a Library Committee and one to organize a Debating Club. During the first winter, the Lyceum had several interesting lectures delivered before large audiences by distinguished Connecticut scholars. The Lyceum membership also developed strongly in the direction of *debate*; but after two or three years, an *inertia* (not uncommon in such cases) settled down upon the members, and in the winter of 1863-4, it died out, and the sixty volumes, which formed its library was ultimately turned into the *Rocky Hill Library Association* formed in January, 1877; and which thus become heir to all the earlier organizations which had done library work. By the careful work of its members it has been enabled to erect a building for a permanent home. The librarian, Mrs. Adelaide Wright, has held the office since 1882. Its present Library building was dedicated December 8th, 1899.



It is forty years since my professional calling began to bring me into familiar contact with a good share of the people of Rocky Hill, and I should have been dull, indeed, not to have discovered that the generation of men and women who were then passing away, had enjoyed some means of intellectual culture, other than those likely to be afforded by the weekly newspaper, and the occasional book that strayed into the homes of the New England farmer of three decades before my time. There was evidence to me, perfectly plain, that they had had access to the best English literature of their times, and that their intellectuality had been enlarged and stimulated thereby.

[We regret that limitations of space, forbid our presenting the list of names of subscribers to the *Social Library*, which is in itself a Roll of Honor, worthy of study by their descendants. The editor has a copy of Dr. Griswold's list of these subscribers, which will be placed in the library of the *Connecticut Historical Society*, at Hartford.—*H. R. S.*]

*The Commercial History of Stepney—"The Landing"—Old Stores—Ship-Yards and Ship-Building—Wharves—Ferries, etc.*

"THE LANDING."—Up to this point, we have discussed the spiritual and intellectual, rather than the material sides of Stepney's earliest history—the Church, the Schools, Libraries, etc. Now, we approach topics not less interesting or important—its ancient mercantile and commercial importance.

During the early commercial epoch of Stepney (now Rocky Hill) most of its River-side places of trade, were on the east side of the River-road, and along the top of the bank south of the Town Reservation. This property was, as we have elsewhere stated, the river-front of the grant which was made, 1649-50, to Samuel Boardman. But, before the death of Jonathan (probably son of James) Smith, which occurred about 1730, the Boardman grant had been acquired by Smith, who left three children, viz.: Nathan, Abigail and Hannah. Abigail married Hezekiah Grimes of Rocky Hill; Hannah married Daniel Clark of Middletown; Nathan died, unmarried in 1733 or '34, by will leaving to his sister Abigail Grimes, the use of the estate left him by his father; the same, at her death, to go to her heirs. Hannah Clark's share of that part of her father's estate included in the Boardman grant was set on the south side, presumably south of what is now Henry Street, extending to a little north of the south line as it now is, and running east to the river, so as to take in about the south third of the land now covered by the Pierce-Hardware buildings, and west to about







the Marsh-Burket corner, on Cross Street, the south line being vaguely up along the little brook, or, perhaps, the Hill road south of it. In 1739, Hannah Clark and her husband sold out their title to this land to Jacob Williams, by deed acknowledged in Middletown before Samuel Hall, which deed is in possession of Mrs. Shipman. In 1754, he sold the north side of this lot, from the River-road west, to Oliver Pomeroy, who built on the north half of the present "long house," called "Aunt Polly Dickinson's." At the time of the sale to Williams, in 1739, and for a long time after, Ferry Street, had not been opened. There was a barn somewhere a little west of where the Pomeroy house is, and a lane led from the River-road up to it, along which lane the road was afterwards made—taking in some of Hannah Clark's, Nathan Smith's and Abigail Grimes' land. Rachel (dau. of Oliver) Pomeroy married Capt. Edward Bulkeley in 1771, and Pomeroy built (probably at that time) the south half of "the long house" for the young couple.

Abigail Grimes' share, as well as the share of which she had the use under her brother Nathan's will, extended from the lane mentioned, north to the Town's "ship-yard reservation" and to the river east. Before the distribution, and as I judge before 1750, Oliver Pomeroy had come into possession of the piece on which the house of Henry L. Hubbard now stands, the site of the old Pomeroy and the Joseph Bulkeley stores, and which ran from the river-road to the river. Abigail's and Nathan's west line was about parallel with Cross Street, and likely ran north of Prospect Street, or Short road. The indications are that Nathan's and Abigail's shares in the Boardman grant were not divided up, but kept in common. She continued in use and possession of this land after the death of her brother. At her decease, 25 March, 1792, the property was distributed by order of the Probate Court, the distributors being John Francis and Wait Robbins. Her heirs were John, Josiah and Alex. Grimes, and Mary (*nee* Grimes), 2d wife of David Webb; but at the time of the distribution, John and Josiah Grimes were dead, and *their* heirs took property in the right of their fathers. To John's heirs was set a piece of land east of the road and south of the store known as Roderick Grimes' (since burned) of 25 feet in width, running to the river, "reserved for the use of the ferry;" together with "the privilege of the ferry." Probably, this same 25 feet had, before the date of this distribution, been attached to the ferry privilege, either by the Smiths, or by Hez. Grimes, to whom the Gen. Court had conceded the liberty of keeping a ferry at the Rocky Hill Landing. This 25 feet width of land is probably still a part of the ferry property; and, as it is claimed that the ferry privilege

has lapsed, by virtue of its abandonment and under a general statute, to the Towns of Rocky Hill and Glastonbury, it may be considered as public land, and attached to the ferry. The distribution price of the ferry privilege and this 25 feet width of land running from the road to the river, was £400—\$1,333.33. As the *apparatus* of the ferry was merely a sweep—propelled flat boat—with, perhaps, a sail, and one or two skiffs, as auxiliaries, we may conjecture the *privilege* and the 25 feet of land as rated at about \$1,000. To the John Grimes' heirs was also set the land next south of this ferry-way strip to the extent of 102  $\frac{1}{3}$  feet in width at the west or highway end, and 122  $\frac{1}{3}$  feet width on the river; the same being now the Collins property. At that time it held "an old dwelling house" and "an old store," the former about where the present brick house is, though not so near to the line of the road; and "the old store," went, likely, when the store and store-house and which stood in the northwest corner of the 102  $\frac{1}{3}$  feet, abutting on the highway, were burned down in 1875. The land and old buildings were priced at a little over \$900.

To the heirs of Josiah Grimes was set about half an acre of land, triangular in shape, where the railroad freight house and passenger station now stands; on which were the "Long Tavern"—the Josiah Grimes' heirs' dwelling house—the north bound of which was the Town land—at £190. Also, on the river bank east of the road and going to the river, 89 feet front and rear, bound north on heirs of Oliver Pomeroy, south on land set to Alex. Grimes. Also, a small piece of land, width not given, running from road to river, bounded south on Pomeroy's heirs and north on Town land; so that the Pomeroy heirs held a piece between the two pieces set to Josiah Grimes' heirs. The first of these pieces was put at £133 $\frac{1}{2}$ , the smaller at £15.

Alex. Grimes received a piece of land on the bank of the river 80 feet front and rear, extending from road to river; bounded south on the 25 feet set to Josiah Grimes' heirs, "for the use of the ferry," and north on the land set to Josiah's heirs—value £140—\$466.66.

It will be seen that the 80 feet set to Alex. Grimes took in the land on which is the present Grimes store and the building that stood next north of it, in which James Stanley once traded; and that the south piece set to Josiah, west from the north line of the Stanley store to about the south line of the building now occupied by Mr. Hubbard, on which, later, were the Bradford and the Justus Bulkely stores.

To Mary (second wife and wid. of David) Webb, was set the lane from road to river, next south of the parcel set to the heirs of John Grimes, deceased, 88  $\frac{2}{3}$  feet wide, next to the river and 73  $\frac{2}{3}$  feet

wide at the west and on the road, and bounded south on land of Wm. Webb. This was where the Pierce Hardware shops now are, or rather the north two-thirds of the building, about the south third being on the north side of the half acre belonging at that time to Capt. Wm. Webb, to whom it had come from his father David (who had died, at sea, of small-pox, Oct. 9, 1770), and which had been acquired from Jacob Williams. By this distribution to the widow Mary Webb, of this part of the Smith property, it became attached to the Webb strip of land south and next to it, and thus remained. On the Webb lot stood the old house that was occupied by Justus Candee, at or previous to 1876, and which was burned in September of that year, along with the foundry buildings, the front one of which had been built by Neff & Merriman for a carriage shop, about 1835.

Abigail Grimes lived to the age of 90, dying in 1792. As, under the will of her brother, she had only the use of the real estate held from him, that use ran for 83 years and on, into the period of the active ship-building and commercial business at The Landing. In the distribution of the river-side property, on the east side of the road, there is no mention made of any buildings on the south lot, set to the heirs of Josiah, or that set to Alexander, 169 feet of point.

There was an old store and an old house on the lot set to heirs of John, the house being the home of Abigail Grimes till her death, and of her husband till his death in 1799. There is also mention of Josiah's house on the west side of the road, but not of a store on that parcel of land. From this want of mention of buildings it would seem that the stores elsewhere spoken of in this history, viz.: the trading places of JUSTUS BULKELEY, of WM. BRADFORD, of JAMES STANLEY and of ASA DEMING, the two first on the lot set to the heirs of Josiah Grimes and the two last on the land set to Alexander (familiarily known as "Daddy") Grimes, were not in existence in 1792; but it is quite certain that they had *all* been built long before that time, and all on *leased* land; as had also the store on the west side of the road, at the apex of the triangular piece of land on which was the old Long Tavern, which had been Josiah's home. Asa Deming, who traded in the South store on the Alexander lot, in 1792, as I am told, built the house in which John L. Thayer now lives—a rather costly house for the period, and not likely to be put up until the builder had amassed some means in trade. This *store*, though it stood on the land of Alex. Grimes and his heirs, did not come into the possession of the Grimes, except as tenants, until several years after Mr. Roderick (son of Alexander) Grimes, traded in it. He leased of



other parties down to about 1830; the latter part of the time of Capt. Jason Boardman. I conclude that Wm. Bradford was trading at The Landing, in what was afterward the Methodist Meeting-house, some years prior to 1792. I am told by Mrs. Fanny Camp that he built the house on Bradford Hill, in 1784; if so, he was likely in trade at the river earlier, although before going into trade, he had a small shop, as a silversmith, just at the foot of the hill on which he built his house, and near by the road as it now runs.

After the Bradford store was removed, Roderick Grimes occupied the strip of land upon which it stood—the strip going to the river—and added it to the Alex. Grimes patch that joined it on the south; and the other part of the lot, on which was the Justus Bulkeley store, has, of late years, become attached to the Oliver Pomeroy property north of it. As Oliver Pomeroy built the north half of the Aunt Polly Dickinson house (corner Ferry Street and Railroad Row), in 1754; it is reasonable to suppose that he was trading at The Landing, at this time, and the evidence tends to show that he, or some one before him, had bought the strip of land on which the store stood previous to that time. I judge that the Pomeroy store was one of the earliest places of trade—perhaps *the* earliest, with the possible exception of “the old store” that stood in the corner next south of the 25-foot ferry way, and where, later, another building was put up. The indications are that “the old store,” considerably antedated 1750; and that Pomeroy was in his, at about that date.

The distribution of the Nathan Smith and Abigail Grimes estates is of the two in common, and includes not only the land on the river front, but the tract on the hillside next north of the shipyard, that the town, in 1672, had conceded to James Smith; and there is nothing in the distribution indicating Nathan’s or Abigail’s respective parts of the land. As further touching the building of the river-side store on *leased* land, it may be stated that, in 1813, when Roderick Grimes commenced business in the Asa Deming store, it being then and for some years after, an *old* looking building, he hired the *ground* of his father Alex., and the *building* of another party. In 1835, he acquired of Capt. Jason Boardman, the then owner, the building, but not the land, until after the death of his aunt Sophronia Grimes in 1860—she having held it as a part of her father’s estate. Mr. Roderick Grimes bought the James Stanley store in the same manner, acquiring the land afterward; he also bought the land where the Wm. Bradford store stood, after the removal of the building, in 1843. Both of these,

as also the Justus Bulkeley store north, were subject for a great many years to the same sort of double control.

Up to the present time of writing (1887), I have not been able to learn the date of erection, or the names of the builders of any of the *old* buildings around The Landing; nor how Jonathan Smith came into possession of the Boardman grant. Nor can I learn when OLIVER POMEROY came here. He died in 1776; his wife is thought to have been a Williams. He was probably succeeded in trade by Joseph (son of Peter) Bulkeley, who was b. in 1742, and died in 1821, ae. 79. Joseph's wife was Mary (dau. of Capt. Moses) Williams. He was succeeded by his sons Henry and Walter Williams, the former born in 1793, the latter in 1797, who had conducted the business for some time before their father's death. They gave up business between 1830-5. Henry (elsewhere spoken of) married late in life, Martha Tucker and left a large family. Walter W. went south in the winter of 1833-4; on his return home, the steamer *Wm. Penn*, in which he was a passenger, was burned; and though he escaped, and was cared for in Philadelphia, he died from exposure and shock, the same night, March 2, 1834. He owned and occupied for a time the John Williams house on South Street. He married in 1830, Lucy (dau. of Levi) Robbins, and left two daus. Amelia, who m. Rev. Horace Williams, and Susan, who m. Hiram H. Webb.

JUSTUS BULKELEY, who traded next south of Joseph Bulkeley, was a brother of Joseph, born in 1752, and died 1829, ae. 77; married Mabel Boardman, 1781, and probably began trade about that time. His second wife was the widow of Ackley Risley (her maiden name Lucretia Churchill) and his third wife was Mehitable Culver. I think he was succeeded in trade by Capt. Isaac Goodrich, who seems previously to have been at the old store that stood just east of the north part of Oliver Pomeroy's house. Goodrich died in 1831, ae. 68.

I suppose WM. BRADFORD to have been the first to trade in the store which he occupied, but possibly not. He came to Rocky Hill from Glastonbury, but was originally (we think) from East Haddam or Haddam. His wife was a Lewis from Haddam. He was born in 1758, began trade here probably sometime after the Revolutionary War and died in 1823, ae. 65. Archibald Robbins probably succeeded him in trade for a time.

Another importation into Rocky Hill was JAMES STANLEY, who died in 1816, ae. 69, which would make him born about 1747. He commenced business here a little before Bradford; though he was not so much in the retail line as the latter. He seems to have been more of

an importer, or wholesale merchant in the West India trade, and heavy dry goods. He married Sarah Butler in 1773. After his going out of business, the store become a store house and packing place for the larger part of the agricultural products exported from Rocky Hill; and continued to be used as such up to about 1875, by Roderick Grimes, and later by Horace Warner of Wethersfield, Jason A. Robbins and others.

When the next store south was erected, we do not know. It was a much older looking building (1825-30) than it now is; and may have been in service before either the Bradford or Stanley stores. It was occupied by ASA DEMING, a merchant of the 1800, and earlier period. Roderick Grimes went into trade in this store in 1813, and continued there until 1859, just before his death; having with him, from 1843-48, his son Marshall in partnership.

The "old store" in which JUSTUS ROBBINS traded, next south to the strip to the ferry-way, may have been used, for some sort of trade, by Hezekiah Grimes, but we cannot be certain. Justus Robbins married Clarinda (dau. of Gen. Jabez) Huntington, in 1790; and was probably trading here before and for some years after. He failed in business and was followed, for a time, by his son-in-law, EDMUND BULKELEY, who married his dan. Nancy in 1811. After him came ABIJAH (son of Abijah) COLLINS, who was baptized 1770, and married Polly Warner in 1812. He replaced the "old store" with a new building; and much later moved his business into the north front room of his brick building. He d. 24 April, 1832, and with him went down another of the water-side places of trade. For a short time from 1842 on, Mr. C. had as a partner, Mr. Albert L. Warner, who subsequently went to Middletown.

The earliest occupant who traded in the store which stood just north of the present railroad passenger station, of whom we have knowledge, was WM. (son of Elias) WILLIAMS, who had his dwelling on the corner of South Street and the Dividend Road, a place given him by his father. He died in 1831, ae. 73. We think that his son Wait Williams had taken the business before the death of the father. Wait married Sarah Williams in 1783, and dying at New Orleans, 27 Dec., 1829, in his 44th year, was succeeded in business by Mr. REVILO CHAPMAN. Dr. Daniel Fuller occupied a part of the store for a retail drugstore there for many years up to 1840, or thereabouts, and Mr. Chapman continued the trade in a small way until his death in 1816; Wait Williams married Sally Dimock in 1818. John Lockwood went into business in the Williams store with Chapman about 1887, and

were there long enough (a few months only) to see Chapman cleaned out and ruined.

Mrs. Margaret Jagger and Mrs. Mary Anne Shipman think that a clerk, named Foster, at one time kept store at The Landing, in a store which stood upon the Mary Webb property, north of the old Candee house, and that the building afterwards became a barn in the rear of that house.

Pease and Niles' *Gazeteer*, published 1819, says as to Wethersfield: "The Town has 5 distilleries; 4 tanneries; 3 grain mills; 2 sawmills; 3 fulling mills; 2 carding machines; 15 mercantile stores and 1 rope walk." Of these, as herein noted, 1 *distillery* was in Rocky Hill, south of The Landing; we have no trace of any other. Of the 4 *tanneries*, 2 were here, Eliakim Smith's and Merriam Williams'. 2 of the 3 *grain mills* were here, at Dividend, and by the IX milestone. One of the *sawmills* mentioned was in Rocky Hill, likely at the east end and below New Farms Street, of Ashbel and Leonard Belden. One *fulling mill* was in the same neighborhood and one *carding machine*. The *rope walk* (elsewhere mentioned) was at this end of the town. Of the 15 *mercantile stores*, I think 8 or 9, or more, were in Stepney—two or three at The Landing (as described), perhaps two, at the Centre Corners. The majority were here, because, at that period Wethersfield had no good landing place—and there was an excellent one here; so, the bulk of commerce coming here, the "mercantile stores" followed suit.

It has been a frequent remark among the residents of the river-side, for the last 50 years, that the refusal of the Grimes family to part with any of the land on the north two-thirds of the Boardman grant, during the period from 1775 to 1825, kept Rocky Hill from being the place of importance which it would have been, had a more liberal policy been followed. It is alleged that outside parties, convinced of the great advantages for commercial business, endeavored in vain to purchase land here whereon to establish themselves; but that the owners, scenting increased value of their lands in the future, would not sell—and so the opportunity passed. This may be so—it has been so in other places; but, from what has been said, it is probable that the long life-lease interest of Aunt Abigail, in the property which came from her grandfather Jonathan and Uncle Nathan, may have been a more potent factor in the case. Of course, a co-operation of the parties in interest, calling for an order from the Probate Court, might have removed that bar and admitted enterprise from without. But from what we have heard, from talk handed down in the family and community,



we judge that mothers and sons, and some of the grandchildren, having "great expectations," were opposed to the sale—and thus the possible future growth and glory of the water-side at Stepney, vanished forever, like the fog in the morning.

Having thus discussed the Old Stores and other antiquities of The Landing at Stepney, we proceed to consider its broader commercial aspect. For though there were landing places and warehouses at the north end of the Town (present Wethersfield) yet Stepney's natural advantages seem to have rendered her naturally the "port" of the Township.

*The Ship-Yard Reservation.*—With a keen appreciation of these advantages, and an early prescience of the business which might be done here at some future time, the early Wethersfield colonists, in December, 1672, while the town was yet but little more than a wilderness, reserved 5 acres of land at the Riverside for a Public Landing, and provided that it might also be used for a shipyard. This 5 acres abutted on the river and extended up the hill on the northeast side of the present north road to the landing (Prospect Street), coming to a point on the road just above the small gambrel-roofed house where Jos. Shelly now lives, once occupied by Allen Belden. This house, the "old sail loft" house, the small house opposite the Belinda Goodrich place, the Isaac Belden place next, and the Geo. E. Belden house, all stand upon this shipyard reservation. The southerly boundary is uncertain, but goes to the river a few feet south of the old sail-loft building. At the same time, the Town gave 20 acres of land to Joseph Smith, next north, including the present orchard of Jason A. Robbins and coming up about where Edward Flint now lives and taking in the Mrs. Chas. G. Beaumont house, and bounded northwest on what became the Ames lot. The condition attached to Smith's grant was that he should maintain a gate and a fence between himself and the shipyard land. The Smith grant at its river east-half lay behind the reservation. From about where the E. S. Belden house now is, a road ran across the yard reservation north, and was extended up along the east knee of the Rocky Hill, through what are now old pastures nearly to the northern end of the hill.

The road was abandoned nearly, or more than 100 years ago and another made at the foot of the hill long before the hillside road went out of use—the Meadow road. In a distribution of property from the estates of Nathan Smith and Abigail Grimes, a piece of land set to Alex. Grimes, in 1792, is described as "bounded west on a highway \* \* \* and south on the terris [terrace] land." This must have been



a part of the Joseph Smith concession, lying behind the shipyard lot, and the bounding of "west on highway" indicates that the old first road was still a road (though it might not have been in use, as such) at that date, which was 142 years after it was first opened.

There appears to have been some connection between the "Shipyard Reservation" and the "gate and fence" that Smith was to maintain between his own and the shipyard land, the covenant between him and the Town being that he should support the fence. An hundred and twenty-five years after this grant to Smith, Alex. Grimes ("Uncle Aleck") father of Roderick and grandfather of Mary Ann Shipman (now living) who was descended from Joseph Smith on the maternal line and to whom had come (through Nathan Smith and his sister Abigail Grimes) a portion of this 20 acre grant, had a legal controversy with the Town about its proprietorship. It may reasonably be taken for granted that the fence in question had been abandoned; but Mr. Grimes successfully resisted the claim of the Town that the grant had been forfeited. But out of this controversy and the sifting of the questions involved, the succeeding generation obtained the impression that the original Smith grant was really a part of the "Shipyard Reservation."

*Ship Building.*—It is uncertain as to when this first began in this yard, but it was probably not for many years after the date of reservation, though there may have been a little done there as early as 1700. At the time of the reservation, and for a hundred years after, the river at that point came in very much nearer to the foot of the hill north of the ferry landing, and nearly up to the meadow as it is now. In later years, portions of this ship land were disposed of by the Town to various persons and were built upon; until finally, after the construction of the railroad through it, in 1871, the small remainder was converted into the Water-Side-Hill Park, and fenced.

We judge, that, by 1750, ship building was quite brisk in the yard north of the landing, and, by 1770, it had increased, and during the Revolutionary War increased in importance still more. About 1797, Mr. John Williams began building in a yard at the mouth of Hog Brook, on the south side. We conjecture that there might also have been some vessels built on the north side of the brook, where the yard of the Messrs. Belden now is; but, the only evidence of this is that in digging there for the present yard, the soil has furnished some indications of a former occupancy for the same purposes. Seventy-five years ago and later, the present ship yard was a fine *onion* garden. The ship building industry began to decay about 1820.

As having some connection with ship building, we may here note that about 1800, Mr. Elisha Callender engaged in sail making at The Landing, and carried on an extensive business in the large building on the west side of the road at the turn to the Ferry—property more recently known as the Sylvester Whitcomb place. Mr. Chas. Williams advances the idea (quite probable) that Mr. Elisha Callender's father (also named Elisha), who d. here in 1816, æ. 79, and who married Sarah Crane, was a sail-maker at the same place before the Revolutionary War. Upon the hill, where E. S. Belden's present residence is, there was a *rope walk*, which was laid out on the line of the old road before mentioned, and extended north for a fourth of a mile, and was covered in for half that distance. It probably dated from 1800, perhaps was established by Jonathan Bill; Samuel Bill ran it in 1806, and for some years. Later it was operated by Abner or James Church, and finally by John Chauncey, and was abandoned about 1825. An Olmsted, who married Bill's daughter was also in the business; the store, storehouse and office (all one building) connected with the rope walk, was converted into a dwelling house and used as such until E. S. Belden built his own home, in 1874, when it was moved to the rear of his residence, and is now used as a barn. The Isaac Belden house, next east, belonged at one time, it is said, to the rope-walk property.

At the period of which we are speaking, and in connection with the ship building, JOSEPH NEFF, we are told, in 1808, carried on this business of *pump and block* making; and SAMUEL (father of Chas. E.) BUTLER also made pumps and blocks and ship's *spars*, or masts, for the vessels built here. This work was done near The Landing, in the rear of where the hardware front-building now is—but all went down, when ship building declined. ELISHA CALLENDER, Sen., manufactured sails in the Old Sail Loft.

Elsewhere, we have given the names of some citizens of this town, who were engaged in ship building during the last quarter of the 18th and the first quarter of the 19th century. There were more living within the remembrance of our now oldest townsman; and it is through these channels of information, that we know there was a still older class of ship builders and seafaring men—and that the business of building ships was carried on by a generation, or two generations of men, older than those mentioned.

Capt. GIDEON GOODRICH, who died in 1769, æ. 72; his brother OLIVER, Sen., who died in 1780, æ. 66; Capt. JOHN BOARDMAN, who was lost at sea, 1780; Capt. JACOB WILLIAMS, who lived at The Land-

ing in 1750, and before, dying in 1751, *ae.* 62; Capt. MOSES WILLIAMS, who died in 1810, *ae.* 81; Capt. ICHABOD GOODRICH, contemporary with Capt. WM. GRISWOLD; Capt. WAIT WARNER, the same, or older; Capt. EPHM. GOODRICH, dying in 1769, *ae.* 72; Capt. JOHN WARNER, here in 1750; Capt. JOHN WELLS, also died 1769; Capt. DAVID WELLS, who died 1770; Capt. JONAH BUTLER, Sen., of the same period; Capts. EDWARD, STEPHEN and PRESCOTT BULKELEY, of the same generation as DAVID WEBB, but living longer; Capt. GERSHOM NOTT, who was running a brig here in 1735, and who died in 1772; and others, of some of whom no record can be found, and whom even tradition has forgotten, were sailing from here; and it is quite certain that they commanded vessels built here and were owners or part owners in them; and that these vessels were either built on their own account, or built for their command, by other parties resident here. It was a very usual thing for a captain to have an ownership in the vessel he commanded either in the coasting, or the West India trade. He frequently owned the whole, or a part of the cargo. Of course these crafts were small, many not over 50 tons, and many less than that. The oldest of these Rocky Hill seamen of whom we have evidence is Capt. JACOB WILLIAMS, born in 1689, who was probably sailing out of Conn. River in the first quarter of the 1700's:—thence on until about 1750. There were also, at this time, sea captains residing in Weth. whose craft must have loaded at Ry-H., wharves. JOHN ALLEN was running a vessel from Weth. in 1721; Capt. CALEB GRISWOLD, who died 1754, *ae.* 49; Capt. CRAFTS WRIGHT, dying in 1766, *ae.* 40; NICH. AYRAULT, dying in 1775, at age of 70. ELISHA WILLIAMS owned vessels in trade from here in 1738; JOHN BULKELEY was master of a vessel in 1768 and JOSEPH SMITH in 1772—thus proving that ship-building was going on here from very early in the 1700's and all along down the century.

Probably the larger part of the vessels we have named were launched either from the old Town Ship-Yard, established 1672, at Stepney; or from John Williams' Yard at Hog Brook. But, with the exception of the comparatively few built at the latter place, and perhaps three or four from the yard at Dividend, and two built quite *away* from the River, it may safely be asserted that the "Old Ship Yard" was the cradle of ship construction all down the years. So far as we know, this portion of the water-front was open for use to *any* town-resident. How its occupancy was adjusted between the various ship-builders, we know not; but doubtless it was by some well understood regulation of comity; and it would be fair to suppose that the Town granted to

certain parties the privilege of occupying certain specified portions for definite lengths of time. At launchings, in the olden times, it was customary for *all* the men employed in the yard, by different employers, to turn out and assist—with, of course, the usual following of a supper and full rations of Jamaica Rum.

Ship building, in these days (1750-1820) was somewhat different from what it now is. The raw material was nearly all worked out at the yard. There were then no appliances for bending timbers by steam—logs were sawed up, in the yard, by hand (cross-cut sawing,—one man in a pit made for the purpose, and another on the ground, above the pit), when a log was to cut lengthwise for planking; bolts, spikes, and nearly all the nails used were made in the near-by smithies: pins were shaped with a broad-axe. All this involved a greater amount of labor than would be called for now-a-days, for a like vessel; and it is evident that the Rocky Hill ship yard of that day must have employed a large force of workmen.

Mr. Charles Williams relates, “ I remember, at one time, (about 1814) of six vessels being on the stocks, at the yard above The Landing, and two below the mouth of the Brook. There must have been 100 (probably more) built in Ry-H., from 1750, or a little earlier, to 1825. Of their names, I recall the very large sloop, the *Robbins*, owned by Capt. Wait Robbins, of So. Weth. (then in Stepney parish). The largest sloop I ever saw, was the *Julia*, owned by Capt. Jason Boardman, who also owned the schr. *Richmond*, packet and others. Those vessels were generally painted black, with a single streak of white on the gunwale. The last vessels built in the North Yard, which I remember, were the schr. *Marshall* for Roderick and Richard Grimes, and the schr. *Energy* for H. and W. W. Bulkeley. Many vessels were built here for Hartford owners. My father built probably 25 or 30 in all. In 1797, he built the schr. *Sally*; in 1801 the schr. *Victory*; in 1807, the schrs. *Friendship* and *Nancy*; in 1808, the sloop *Merino*, which vessel was captured by the British in 1812 off Saybrook and burned at New London. Between 1808 and 1813, he lost five vessels with their cargoes. He built a second schooner, named the *Sally*, after his second wife, which was capsized 12 hours out of Saybrook, off Montauk Point and lost, with her cargo of 12 horses, 8 head of cattle, hay &c.,—bound to Bermuda.

“The sloops *Charles*, *Paragon*, *Jack* and an earlier *Sally*, and the schr. *Hannah* were also of his building. One of them was built *in the highway*, directly opposite the later residence of Samuel (gd-father of Dea. J. G.) Dimock, who lived at the Ackley Williams’ place—being master-workman. It was intended that it should be taken when finished



(as was expected, in early winter) on runners to the River; but not being completed in time for that, it was placed on wheels made especially for the purpose, nearly 4 ft. in diameter, the holes for the axles being about 10 in. in diameter, and it took some fifty men and sixty yoke of oxen (and a half barrel of St. Croix rum) when it became necessary occasionally to lift the wheels out of the mud—to get her to the River! The last vessel of my father's building, was put up in the yard between his house and barn—and was drawn across lots in the winter of 1817-18, on runners. It was a 40-ton sloop, called the *Independence*."

In 1873, SEABURY BELDEN and his son, Eugene, bought the Ship-Yard property near the mouth of Hog Brook, together with some adjoining properties, and began ship-building, north of the brook, thus reviving a business that had been defunct for over 40 years. The senior member of the firm had originally carried on ship-building in Midd., and at Dutch Point, Hartford, for many years before locating at Ry-H. The firm has builded at this latter place, between 1869 and 1891, 7 schooners, 12 barges and one yacht-sloop—or a total of 20 vessels—varying from 7.58 to 460.35 tonnage, of which we have all the details but—not the space—to publish. Mr. H. A. Grant was, about 1876, a partner for a short time, in this firm.

About 1802, a Mr. SHAILER from Haddam, began the building of small craft at Dividend—which continued for a few years.

Many incidents of misfortune in the sea-faring lives of residents of the town have come down to us. From May 7 to Aug. 17, 1782, of 22 American seamen taken on the brigantine *Gen. Greene* (believed to have belonged here) by the British ships patrolling Long Island Sound, there died at New York James White, Daniel Marsh, Burrage Bulkeley, Wm. Meldrum, Hezekiah Blinn and his son Jerah, Wm. Curtis, Benj. Wright, John Burns, and at Saybrook on his return home, John Price. These were Rocky Hill men. Roger Price, a prisoner to the English, died at Jamaica in 1782. Coming down later we have as an item the tradition that in one season, (about 1812) twenty-two men were counted up from the place as having perished at sea. This must have been an uncommonly fateful year for the sailors from here; but there were frequent cases of men going hither and losing their lives on the water or by fever contracted at the ports visited. Vessels went out and in some instances were never heard from. This traditional loss of twenty-two men in one season from so small a place indicates something of the numbers engaged in seafaring life from the parish, and of the business in that direction.



From 1780 to 1820 there was probably an average of twenty vessels owned at Stepney and in Weth. proper—sailing mostly from the former place to Cuba, Porto Rico, Jamaica, St. Croix, the Barbadoes, Antigua, Bermuda, the Canaries and to ports in Western Europe, and all the sea-coast places in the States. During the Napoleonic wars the island of St. Bartholomew was a frequent resort for these vessels; as, being a Swedish territory, it offered a neutral port for legal trade; and for sometime after the Non-intercourse Act, it was the only West Indies port to which American vessels could trade. After the Peace of 1783 there was an improvement in the carrying-trade. From 1797-1801, during the Adams' administration, the trouble between France and the U. S. interfered much with American commerce. French privateers from Guadeloupe and Martinique captured many American vessels—some of which were from Stepney, and other Conn. River towns. The owners of these vessels were never reimbursed for losses, although the French Government, in the sale of the Louisiana country, specifically made reparation to our Government, as intended payment for the captured vessels—the “French Spoliation Act” of which we occasionally hear, when a spasm of virtuous honesty comes over the powers that be.

The vessels employed here as elsewhere at the Conn. River towns were often called “horse jockeys” presumably, because they so frequently carried out cargoes of horses for trade. They were well built and strong, though rather slow sailors; with low decks, high waist and not as sharp in the bows as is now the style. But, they were generally good sea-boats, varying from 50 to 200 tons. The larger ones were either two-topsail schooners, or full rigged brigs; the smaller were generally sloop-rigged, having one stout, and not very high mast, but carrying a very large standing topsail and a big main-sail. They made two, sometimes (though rarely) three voyages a year to the W. I.; had often to lay long in port to pick up a cargo, and trade off the produce carried out. Often the boats were sent a long distance along the coast, or inland, to gather up molasses, sugar and rum from the large estates; and it was on these coast trips that the crew often contracted fevers of which they died. From 20 up to 60 head of horses, or cattle, were shipped, also pigs, sheep and large amounts of poultry. Five hundred pounds of hay, 10 bushels of oats, 110 gallons of water, was the usual allowance for each head of horse, or cattle. The boys of the village would sometimes consign a coop-ful of hens, as their first venture, Officers, or part owners, and members of the crew often had small ventures.<sup>1</sup> The supercargoes were

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<sup>1</sup> Some idea of the extent to which the people of Wethersfield were interested in these maritime industries and interests, may be gained from the following

young men of the town. There were also voyages to Spain, Portugal, and occasionally to the west coast of Africa, whence they brought home ivory, ebony, etc.,—and, no doubt, occasionally, they lapsed into the carrying of a cargo of negroes. As, up to 1812, the U. S. was a neutral country its vessels could enter largely into the carrying trade for those nations that were at war. The W. I. planters needed large supplies; the English needed large amounts of beef, flour, etc., for their naval forces at sea and troops in garrison in their island possessions; and much of all this went out from New England ports—in all of which Stepney had its share.

It would be difficult for the resident of the present Rocky Hill village, to realize what a scene of bustling activity old Stepney Landing presented during the period (1750 to about 1820) of its commercial prosperity. There were then eight or nine stores about the landing, whose owners were owners of the vessels being built in the adjoining ship-yard, or taking on goods, or unloading at the docks. These stores all dealt in so-called West India goods (rum, brandy, wines, sugars, teas, molasses, salt, sea-coal, etc.) and in “domestics”—all imported directly, and all did a fair trade. Among their exports were horses, cattle, hogs, hay, hoop-poles, barrel-staves, salted beef, pork and fish, potatoes, onions, etc.,—and sometimes (for ballast) brick. Often these exports were shipped by first owners and sent “on venture;” at other times, these dealers at The Landing bought of the farmers, and shipped at their own risk.

During the period of which we have been speaking it was the general custom, when vessels left for sea, to have prayers put up in the church

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items taken from the Lister's or Assessor's Books of the Town of Wethersfield for the years, 1730, 1732 '33 and '34—of those who paid taxes upon their investments in shipping viz. *In Old Society* (Wethersfield proper).

*Ayrault, Peter*, 1-16 of a sloop 1734; *Nicholas*, “10 tons of sloop”; 1733-34, and in 1737, they were owners of a sloop: *Belden*, Thos. 1730,  $\frac{1}{4}$  part of sloop, in 1733,  $\frac{1}{8}$ , the Beldens all had a turn for this kind of investment—in 1736 *Jonathan* and *Silas* had 9 tons each, Thos.  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a 60 ton sloop, *Ebenezer* 1-16 of a 65 ton sloop and also 1-6 to 1-2 16th part of a 70 ton sloop; *Boardman*, David, 1737, part owner of 2 sloops, *Timothy*, 1736, had 8 tons in a sloop; *Butler Samuel*, “9 tons of a sloop,” 1737; *Coleman*, John, 4 1-2 tons of “sloop”; *John, Jr.*, in 1736, owned “1-8 of a sloop of 80 tons”; *Francis*, John, 1736, 1-8 of sloop of 70 tons; 1736, *Goodwin*, Thomas, 4 1-4 sloop of 50, and 1-8 of sloop of 80 tons, in 1737, an 18th part of a “scooner” of 90 ton, and 1-4 of sloop of 50 tons; *Griswold*, Elisha, 1737—a 17th part of sloop, *Diamond*, in 1736, 1-16 of sloop; same year *Caleb G.*, ditto; *Josiah* part owner, 1737 of 2 sloops, and 1736 he and *Jacob G.* owned 3-16 of a sloop; *Nott*, John, 1736—18 tons in sloop; *Rose*, Sgt. John, 1736, “5 toons of a sloop”; *Ephraim Williams*, 1737, 8 “part of a sloop of 70 tons”. *Wells*, Gideon, 9 tons in a vessel, 1737; 1730, *Nath'l Stillman* and *Samuel Wright, Jr.*, each “part of a sloop.” *H. R. S.*

for their safe return; and, *vice versa*, the congregation was asked to offer thanks when they returned, for their safe deliverance from the perils of the deep. Capt. Joseph Butler always had this done on his departure to, or arrivals from, the West Indies. One of Mr. Williams' stories is connected with this custom, viz. One John Gibbs, owning and living at the Horace Williams' (late Albro Griswold) place was a strict observer of times and seasons—in a religious sense. His Sunday began at sunset of Saturday, his cows were all milked and the "chores" all done before that hour; and, contrariwise, the cows were not brought up from the pasture on Sabbath, until *after* sundown. This keeping Saturday night, as a part of the holy day, was then common among all religious people; and Mr. G. was nothing if not religious. So, when, having buried his wife about the middle of one week, he went to Salisbury on the succeeding Monday, brought back a new wife on Saturday (before sun-down), and with a broad crape on his hat and his bride in deep mourning, appeared in church on Sabbath morning, the matter caused some comment; and some wag stuck up, in the church porch (and directly below one of Capt. Butler's requests) a similar notice that "Mr. John Gibbs requests that the thanks of the church should be offered, for his safe return from Salisbury"—to the great amusement of the community.

*Home-Trade and Business.*—Besides its coasting and foreign commerce, Rocky Hill had (before the construction of the N. H. & Northampton Canal, in 1822) a very considerable retail home-trade, on the East from the towns across the River, and on the West with Newington, Weth. proper, Berlin and New Britain. At one time Farmington merchants owned three vessels that traded regularly from Ry.-H. Of course, the export of live stock expired with the decay of shipping from this port; but the potato, onion and apple-trade in the autumn continued largely, either by water or the railroad until about 1870, since which it has become nearly *nil*. The growth of Hartford's population, as also of the cities of New Britain and Meriden have supplied nearer and better markets for agricultural produce.

During the period from the beginning of the Revolutionary War to 1825 or '30, a large number of Ry.-H's. young men—in common with many of the sea-bordered New England States, took up the seafaring life. Manufacture as now conducted in America, was then unborn; agriculture did not absorb the energies of an increasing population; and not until after the close of the War of 1812, were the States so divorced from the Old Country as to take up manufacturing to any degree; so that the sea offered the only outlet to the young men of the day. So it

happened, that, from 1800, the Academy in this town instructed young men in the science of Navigation; while craft leaving the River afforded them the opportunity of practical training. Rocky Hill then had its full quota of good sea-captains and able seamen—since about 40 per cent. of its male inhabitants, between the ages of 16 and 60, were engaged in seafaring service, or ventures. There was, however, another class of young men adventurers, who, as young men will, in every generation, sought abroad the opportunities for the exercise of their abilities, which are denied them by the narrow limits of their birthplaces. To these, the Southern States offered large inducements.

*Going South.*—All along the years, from about 1780 to 1835, a goodly number of young men from the southern parts of New England “went South” into the Southern States—some to settle there permanently, either in trade or in mechanical pursuits; some as peddlers of Northern manufactured goods; others, again, as workmen at their trades, for the winter months. Tin and pewter goods were largely exported and sold in the South; later, Connecticut-made clocks and wagons were in great demand there. It was a common thing to go out every Autumn and return in the Spring; the trip forth and back being made by water. Stepney contributed its full share of these (mostly) young men, as mechanics, peddlers and tradesmen of various sorts, direct from The Landing; or, sometimes in vessels from Midd. or New London, New Haven or New York;—on their return taking the first vessel sailing to any of these points. The voyage to Charleston or Savannah averaged about ten days, sometimes less, but oftener more. Extracts from a collection of old letters in possession of Elizabeth M. and Sarah G. Williams, grandchildren of Thomas Danforth, manufacturer of pewter goods, at Stepney, furnishes us with the following items concerning this annual Northern invasion of the South. They are mostly written by Thomas Danforth, Jr., who was a pewterer by trade, probably having learned it in his father’s shop.

One of his letters, dated at Philadelphia, Jan. 1st, 1807, speaks of “going to the play,” at the cost of “four and sixpence;” the plays which he heard and saw being “Hints and Husbands” and “Robin Hood,” and he says “the house was crowded.” Also, “we have begun turning pewter and have completed over 5000 weight. I have made a considerable many spoons, and think I can turn plates almost as well as Emory.” This letter was to his sister, Miss Betsy Danforth. April 21, 1809, young Danforth has just returned from Philadelphia, having come *via* New Haven, and by stage, home. His father is in Philadelphia, and the son writes to him “I shall pack up the tin and tools on Monday,



I think presumably to go to Phila., as Capt. Oliver Goodrich has got a vessel going next week to New York."

Jan. 31, 1811, Betsy Danforth, writing from home to her father in Philadelphia, says, "respecting lead-work, it is thought if you are here the first of April, you will have it all to do. Mr. Jason Robbins says he shall depend upon you to do his. \* \* \* Thomas Boardman writes he has plenty of work." This Boardman, who probably learned his trade with Thomas Danforth, was later of the firm of Thos. Danforth and S. Boardman for many years in business in Hartford, and later of Boardman and Hart, in New York. March 12, 1811, Thomas Danforth, Jr., being still in Philadelphia, writes to his father in Stepney "I cast 40 doz. comp. [osition ?] plates yesterday, and trips, and turned them outside to-day." June, 1812. T. Danforth is in Phila., working for a Mr. Barns, and with him was Mr. Nott, of Stepney. War with England was imminent, and he writes, "There were about 200 or 300 soldiers passed through this town yesterday, going on to Albany. They had about 20 cannon, drawn by 4 horses each, with two riders, and four large baggage waggons, with five horses to each. This looks like War." Nov. 27, 1818, young Danforth is in Augusta, Geo., working for North & Rowe in a new shop, built "since I left home last Spring, especially for pewter and tin business. Peddlers are doing extraordinarily well. North & Rowe had one come in that was gone three weeks and brought them in \$1200 in cash. Giles Griswold is setting the pewter business agoing by horse power." Generally the "power" used in turning for pewter work was a stout man—at the South, a negro. March 8, 1818, from Augusta, Ga., he says "Adna Rowe arrived here last week, only 23 days, from New York, by land, in a two-horse wagon." Samuel Danforth and his son John, are spoken of as being "in Augusta, the former drinking too freely." "Griswold wants to engage Danforth for the next winter," and the latter thinks he "can make as much as \$85 a month, clear of all expense." "Peddlers, who take out nothing but pewter and tin, clear \$60 to \$70 a month." Nov. 6, 1818, Danforth has just arrived at Savannah, eleven days from New London and home, up river, to Augusta. "If you see Justus Robbins, tell him onions are 12½ cts. at this time [per bunch] ; potatoes, 62½ cts. per bushel ; cheese 12½ ; butter, a good price." This was inducement to Robbins to send out a cargo from Rocky Hill. Dec. 19, 1819, from Augusta again, in regard to peddling, "Those who get licenses for the year to come will have to pay for each county \$600." This evidently was some new legislation. "The widow Holmes' son called to see me ; he tells me he gets \$3 to \$4 a day, caulking boats. Isaac Norton and a Mr. Hooker work in the shop with me." March, 1820, "Mr. Dimock



(prob. from Stepney) calls to see me most every week." May 7, 1820, "the peddlers are all leaving us, and the tinnerns from the other shops have all gone home." Nov. 10, 1820, Mr. D. is at Saybrook, bound South again, "We go to sea as soon as the tide serves us [to get over the bar] which will be about 11 o'clock this day." Nov. 19, Savannah, "arrived here last Thursday night, after passage of only five days from Saybrook; there were 34 passengers, most of them ladies, nearly all sea-sick all the way. I found Mr. Geo. Bradford here, who is to start for Augusta in the next stage." Dec. 3, 1820, Augusta, "if you see Thomas D. Boardman, inform him that Giles Griswold has had his note protested at the bank and has put everything out of his hands." These extracts from the letters passing between these young Rocky Hill men of that day, and their home friends, show something of their lives and occupations, and illustrate the fact that skilled New England workmen in many crafts were in demand all over the Southern States; and that this neighborhood sent its share to supply the want.

DANFORTH, THOMAS.—Among the principal business men of Stepney, in the last quarter of the last century, was Thomas Danforth, who came here from Midd., in 1778, and had a store on the N.E. corner of "the Centre." He continued in trade here until 1818, either himself or by his son Thomas, Jr., and died in 1840, aged 84 years. His old accounts (in possession of Misses E. W. and S. G. Williams) show that he dealt in almost every conceivable article of hardware then known, besides most kinds of goods and wares then usually found in country stores. He also manufactured all sorts of tin, brittania, pewter and japanned goods, as well as those of copper, brass and lead. He had a brother in Hartford, and another in Midd., both engaged in the same line of manufacturing and trading; and Rocky Hill was a sort of "half-way house" for the three. He sent out many peddlars with his goods and his accounts show a large retail business with people from Weth., Newington, Berlin, New Britain, Farmington, Glastonbury, Marlborough, Colchester, and other towns. He also had a pewtering and japanning shop in Philadelphia, where he frequently spent his winters. From 1794 for some years on, his son-in-law, Richard Williams, was in business with him. The stamp of T. D. on goods made by Danforth was a guarantee of good reliable manufacture at all points wherever they were found. It is worth noting, as showing the housekeeping customs of the 1800 period, that Mr. D's. accounts contain frequent sales of *sand* to the village people. This was for sanding the floors of the family sitting and other rooms. Carpets were not then in general use, and fine, white, imported sand was used to sprinkle over the floors, as it took up

all sorts of dirt and dust. It was left on the floor for some days, then swept out and a new sprinkling put on. It was especially thus used in bar-rooms, stores, barber-shops, etc. This use of sand continued until within the remembrance of some now living—indeed, to a limited extent, down to as late as 1840. A frequent charge in Mr. D.'s books was for "horse and chaise." The "chaise" was a two-wheeled vehicle, sometimes with a top, and generally hung on leather springs. It was what we should now call a *sulky*, and was intended for one person only.

The last of the Danforth family left Ry-Hill about 1870. Mr. D. was descended from Rev. Nicholas Danforth, who emigrated to Cambridge, N. E., from Suffolk, Eng., 1634. The following item from one of T. D.'s letters, (1838) show that he recognized the difference between a "church" and a "meeting house"; viz. "Glastonbury has lately built two Presbyterian meeting-houses, an Episcopal church and a Methodist. They make a very fine appearance from our hill."

Among those who learned the trade of Mr. Danforth was Sherman Boardman of Hartford; and the old and well known brittania firm of Boardman & Hart of New York and Hartford was a direct outcome of the old Rocky Hill shop. Lucius Hart was a Rocky Hill boy.

To Pres. Dwight of Yale College we owe a view of this town as it appeared in 1796.

"Stepney," he says, "is a parish of Weth. lying on a collection of hills, which are a continuation of the Middletown range; and at the point where it crosses the River. These hills are handsome and very fertile. One of these eminences, *Rocky Hill*, has given its name to the parish so generally, that few persons in the State have ever heard of the name Stepney. On the Northern side of this hill is a magnificent view over the Connecticut Valley, about 50 miles in length and 20 in breadth. Immediately below, lies the beautiful town of Weth., with its intervals on the East, and finely sloping hills on the West. Between these intervals, and those of Glastonbury, winds the Conn. River. Still further East is the town of Glastonbury itself. On the North is the City of Hartford, and the undulating country which lies westward of it. The Lyme range limits the view on the East, and that of Mt. Tom on the West; and on the North, at the distance of 42 miles, it is bounded by the mountains Tom and Holyoke.

This parish is a rich agricultural country, and carries on a considerable commerce. Its Landing is also the seat of almost all the trade of Wethersfield. The people are prosperous: the houses generally very good; the church, a new building, is handsome, and everything which

meets the eye wears the appearance of industry and prosperity. The country is extremely pleasant and settled almost in the form of a village."

*The Ferry.*—From the earliest time of settlement, there was probably considerable ferrying between Rocky Hill Landing and South Glastonbury. In 1650, the Town of Wethersfield voted to lay out a road on the West side of the River, and, also, a road to Nayaug Farms, directly opposite on the East side of the River, and established a landing at the foot of the hill. It is quite likely, that, before 1700, the Town had conceded to some one the right to ferry and take tolls. In 1724, the Gen. Assembly, "granted liberty" to Jonathan Smith to run a ferry at this point. He was presumably the son of Joseph Smith to whom the Town, 52 years before, had "set out" 20 acres of land directly behind and north of the ferry and the Ship Yard Reservation—see *The Landing*. Unless Joseph Smith had died before this date (1724) it is quite presumable that he, or perhaps he and his son Jonathan, Smith had been running the ferry here before, without special license: but it would be in accord with the way of managing such matters at that early period, of the Colony, that this grant by the General Court to Jonathan was a confirmation of a concession made at this time, to his father, Joseph. The General Court, at this time fixed the rate of tolls—at "fourpence" (6½ cts.) for each man, horse and load; and twopence for each person on horseback, and prohibited the taking of any higher rate. In 1728, Jonathan Smith, as stated in the records of the Gen. Court, having become old and unable to do the work, the ferry-right was continued to his son Nathan—who, dying in 1734, Hezekiah Grimes was given the right to continue the ferry, at the pleasure of the Assembly. It will be noticed that the Assembly did not establish, in any party, an ownership franchise in this ferry privilege; but simply gave the right to continue the ferry, at the pleasure of the General Assembly retaining its power to confer the same right upon other parties, when it chose to do so. But, so far as we can learn the operation of the ferry continued in the Grimes family for many years, undisturbed and a *prior* ownership of the privilege was assumed by the parties running it. This assumed ownership of the privilege finally became subject to sale and transfer, along with the boats, oars, etc., used in the service. Hez. Grimes died in 1749, and after his death, his widow, Abigail (daughter of Jonathan) Smith and sister of Nathan. probably had charge of the ferry, and it is likely that he, or his son John operated it; and in the distribution of his estate, the ferry was set out to John's heir—a daugh-

ter who married Elizur Goodrich, who, in turn, probably ran the ferry. His daughter Martha (or Patty) granddaughter of John and great granddaughter of Hez. Smith married Chester Williams and Williams ran the ferry on his wife's right—probably along with his brother-in-law Andrew (son of Elizur) Goodrich. Andrew, at this time resided in "the old store" in the northwest corner of the present Collins property. Patty Williams (*nee* Goodrich) became a widow and married Geo. Risley and then he attended the ferry early in the present century. Samuel Wheat and son owned and operated it from about 1810. It was under a double ownership for a long time, commencing, it is likely, with Andrew Goodrich and Mrs. Chester Williams. Wheat and Risley were in the ferry together. Risley fell from the boat and was drowned about 1818, and a year or so later, Wheat left here and leased the ferry to others.

At one time, Capt. Webb (father of Benj. G.) owned a part of it; William and Levi Goodrich were owners or operators at one time; Elisha Callender and Benj. Archer, also; Capt. Jason Goodrich came in possession in whole or in part, and in 1849, put in use a decked boat, with tread-wheel horse power. Levi Boardman, Anson Tryon, Joseph Hale, Eleazur Holmes, Robert Hollister, Henry A. White, Wait Warner, Chas. G. Beamount, L. M. Beamount, Wm. R. Bulkeley, Halsy Jagger, Warren Taylor, Wm. H. Webb, James L. Pratt and others from time to time done to 1864, owned, or ostensibly owned and operated this ferry. About 1865, it went into the hands of Ed. Boynton, who, thinking to do better at some other place, abandoned the privilege and took the boat away with him. It was then supposed that by this abandonment of the charter (for it was taken for granted that a charter existed) the privilege had been forfeited. By a general statute, passed early in this century, or before the abandonment of the privilege, the keeping of the ferry in operation was imposed upon the towns of Rocky Hill and Glastonbury. A flat boat was put on by the selectmen of these towns and run for a time, at a loss to the towns. Then the towns made, in 1866, a contract with Lyman Williams to put on a steam ferry-boat and run it for 10 years, he receiving all the tolls, and a bonus of \$1,000 from the towns. In 1876, a new lease was made to the same party and Martin F. Hollister for another 10 years, they taking the tolls, only. The grantees built a new boat, *The Centennial*; and at the expiration of the lease in 1886, a new one was made for 10 years, with Martin F. Hollister, he agreeing to pay the towns \$40 per year for the use of the privilege. In 1887, he petitioned the Assembly for a new charter, seeking to take from the towns their



right and property in the privilege, but his petition was rejected; and he carried the case to the Supreme Court, which held that Boynton's abandonment of the ferry left the privilege in the hands of the towns. Hollister had built a new boat *The Hollister* in spring of 1888; but, in 1893, threw up the right, which was no longer his, and the ferry has since been cared for by the two towns. As before stated in our remarks about The Landing, there is attached to this ferry privilege a strip of land 25 feet in width, from road to river, next south of the Roderick Grimes' store which was set to the heirs of John Grimes in 1792, in the division of the estate of Abigail, widow of the Hez. Grimes to whom the General Court granted in 1734, the privilege and which was "for the use of the ferry." During the hundred years or more from the death of Hez. Grimes, in 1749, it was a popular impression that there was no legal restraint against any party who chose to ferry passengers across the river, and accept pay for so doing. This claim was based, perhaps, on the supposition that the privilege granted 1734, lapsed with death of Hez. Grimes; perhaps, on the ground that an *exclusive* privilege was never granted, and that other parties were never barred. Certainly, the privilege was something less than a *charter* and never conferred the exclusive right that a charter would have done; and the right of other parties to ferry, if they choose, is still not quite settled against them. The matter presents several points of dispute, which may ultimately have to be settled in Court.

The tolls, as before stated, in 1724, were 6*d.* for man, horse and team and probably continued at this figure for some time. But, for some years previous to 1864, the 6½ cents had been raised to 8 cents, and, after steam was introduced, to 10 cents for man, horse and wagon, with 5 cents for each extra passenger, or single passenger—other tolls in proportion. It has been the custom to take 25 cents toll for horse or two persons both ways, and in times of high water 50 cents has been taken. An extra charge is always made for Sunday crossing.

The money value of the ferry privilege has varied from time to time. At first, of course, only small boats were used, and for foot passengers only. But, very soon after 1650, there must have been some crossing by teams and then flatboats came into use. These, at first, were propelled by oars or sweeps; then sails were added and these combined methods were in use up to 1849. It is a fair presumption that it paid for the work done. After this time and for several years the privilege, with the boat and horses, were considered as worth nearly, or quite \$3,000. Mr. Wm. R. Bulkeley sold his half of it, about 1882.



for \$1,300, which was about the ruling price. The suspension of Pratt's ferry at North Glastonbury before this period and of the ferry at Wethersfield village earlier, and also the ferry at Hartford, had made this privilege more valuable; but, the opening of the new Willow Brook ferry in East Hartford (Colt's ferry) seriously tapped the business at this place and its income and sale value decreased. Mr. Wait Warner paid \$800 for a half of it, a few years later, and at a still later time it sold for less; and in '64 it would seem that it was not thought worth holding on to. But subsequently, the Colt's ferry being discontinued, the property improved and the parties who got \$1,000 bonus made a good thing of it.

LOCAL NAMES IN ROCKY HILL.—*Long Hill*, that portion of the road, *only*, from below Goffe's Bridge to where Mrs. Thomas Warner, now lives, formerly the Zebulon Robbins' property. The hill itself was first known as Rocky Hill; after Shipman's Hotel was built, it became Shipman's Hill; as a permanent name it *should be* called IRON-STONE HILL.

*Dividend* (in old records "Divident") is the name attached to that part of the road between the Cemetery and the Bulkeley Mill site; to the woods on the east side of that road, to the plain below, and east to the river; to the brook, to the mill site, to the house and dam and to the small meadows below the brook; and east of the railroad and to the sawmill site. The Town of Wethersfield reserved, or rather, in granting concessions for public use, did not give away, a strip of land 20 rods wide, from Cole's Hill on the east side of the Burying Ground, to the Bulkeley "corne-mill." This reservation, except a narrow strip for roadway, was (according to tradition) divided among the adjoining proprietors, and some of it fenced in as lots—hence, *Dividend*. The east side of the Burying Ground, as it now is, was in this reservation. In the woods below, for a not very wide strip, the towns people have always regarded it as legitimate for whoever chose, to cut off the growth of saplings.

*Drum Hill* is the rise on the turnpike below the small sand bank and the Hosea Bulkely place, in the South District. It is so called from very early times, because of a distinctly recognizable drum-like noise made by teams driving over it, as if it was hollow below the surface.

*Tryon's Landing*, so called, was at the river end of the road through the woods from the Dividend road over the hill, south of Hog Brook. There was a wharf at this point where vessels sometimes laid up. Why called thus, we do not know. There is a "Tryon Town" on the

east side of the river below. The people at Tryon's Town *landed* at Rocky Hill, coming up and over in boats; and they, perhaps, made a landing at the place indicated, and walked up the rest of the way. The wharf may have been Tryon's property. The grove in a natural hollow and amphitheatre; at this point, was a splendid picnic ground. Sunday school gatherings, general town-picnics, fish-fires, clam-bakes, etc., were held here all through the last 150 years up to 1871; but, the building up of the road, making a high embankment and cutting it off from the river, finally spoiled it for its old uses. Besides this interference, we have come to think that gatherings of this sort are rather tame, unless we can go off *out of town*, for them

*The Plains* is the name of that tract of land lying between Dividend Brook, where it crosses the road west of the turnpike, over the hill from F. Griswold's cider mill, and south of the upper part of that brook extending west to some 20 rods west of the "Shunpike," and south to the swamp and woods, through which runs Peat Swamp Brook, about along the south line of the town. Between these bounds is a large tract of light land. About the middle of the road and reaching to the swamp south is what is known as the *Peat Farm*, the south side of which goes into the swamp. Where the brook comes through is a large peat bog which has been worked, from time to time, within the past 75 years, or more. There has been quite as much money put into this bog, as has been taken out, but considerable of the deposit has gone on to the Peat Farm. This plain has also been known as Bishop's Plain; in the old records it was "Beset's" Plain, evidently a contraction of the Indian original title—Amobeset.

*Peppercorn*, the name of the tract of land east and south of the south school house in the woods, is said to have been applied, away back in the years, because it was such poor land that "it would not bear even peppercorn." In the "Militia Training" times of a half century ago, this was a place for the "general muster" to be held—at which were "high old times"—sometimes a sham battle, and old residents used to relate, with laugh and chuckle, the funny incidents enacted at "the Battle of Peppercorn."

East of Peppercorn is a patch of woods, in a hollow just south of the road, a famous picnic place; and where the Centennial of American Independence, in 1876, was duly celebrated by the Rocky Hillians.

*Cabull Hill* (Cape Bull Hill, or Cape Bull "for short") is the name applied, for many generations, to that section west from the Shunpike, after getting over the first hill and the hollow beyond.

The origin of the name is obscure. Whether from ownership by some of the ancient Bull family in the town; or from the "mooing" or calling of the cows, it is difficult to say. "He has gone out to Cape Bull for wood" is the way people would speak. Near the west end of this Cabull road, going west, is quite a deep hollow, and the hill beyond is high and very steep, so that there has never been a road up its side. This high hill, coming up to the road from the south, and projecting north with a gentle slope for nearly or quite half a mile to run before it reaches the small brook north of it, bears a strong resemblance to a "cape," projected into the sea—a resemblance so apparent as readily to suggest the name of Cape. If we conjecture some ownership of Bull at this hill, we can readily have "Bull's Cape," or "Cape Bull." See, also for *Judge Adams' theory*, pp.

*Vexation*.—A name, for some unknown reason, applied to a piece of land north of the Berlin road, in the West District; that is north of the hill at south end of Reservoir Street, and west of that street up to the Reservoir, partly in Rocky Hill township and partly in Wethersfield.

*Pumpkin Town* (or "Punkin Town") is the derisive appellation, from many years back, of the west section of the town lying on both sides of the Shunpike, which has not been at all acceptable to the residents there, as the place was regarded as a little "out"—and, of later years, it has been generally dropped. Linus Deming, born in 1804, has told me that the name antedates his memory.

*Dividend Bar* is a long stone pier projecting half way across the river, below the foot of the road at the old Shailor Shipyard, and north of the mouth of Dividend Brook.

Below the Dividend Brook was an old shad fishing place, known as *Hard Bargain*; perhaps, because some one fishing the privilege, felt he had made but a hard bargain of it.

Three-fourths of a mile above Shailor's shipyard was "Tryon's Landing," before spoken of, and a little ways above that, *Cold Spring*, originally a fine spring and resort for clambakes, etc.; but spoiled by the building of the railroad. *Hog Brook* came next, then *The Landing*, proper. *The Water-side* was the general way of speaking—the hill in the shipyard Reservation was the "Water-side hill."

*The Mustard Bowl*.—Up over the hill to the southwest of the Butler Grist Mill, and bounded south on Cromwell town line, is a tract of hollow, of several acres—known from "away back," as the "Mustard Bowl." The hollow has no outlet; the land is light and dry, the

rainfall is absorbed by the soil. The "bowl" is symmetrical in shape and was, years ago, a little famous as producing 40 bushels of wheat to the acre. But this was when the land was new, its fertility was about exhausted some years ago.

*Shad Fishing.*—In the earlier days of the shad fishing business, (doubtless carried on at the fishing places spoken of to some extent from the first settlement about The Landing), the catch was simply for home consumption, fresh and salted. But as soon as there begun to be any carrying trade, out of the river, of salt-fish, the packing of shad became a business here, as at other places on the river. Connecticut river shad very early had a reputation of superiority. To preserve this, as also to prevent deception in the packing, the General Court decreed that:

"All pickled shad . . . intended for market shall be split and well cleaned and pickled in a strong brine, at least fifteen days before they are put up for market. Each barrel shall contain two hundred weight, and each half barrel one hundred weight, . . . and shad so put up shall be of three qualities: the first of which shall be denominated shad No. 1, and shall consist wholly of shad well saved, free from rust or any defect, with the head and tail cut off and the back bone taken out; and each barrel shall contain no more than seventy-two shad; half barrels no more than thirty-six shad each." The second quality were to be prepared in like manner, with eighty-two to the barrel and forty-one to the half. No. 3 were to have the *heads* taken off, but there was no provision as to the tails or the back bone. And all were to be inspected by a man appointed for the business, and by him numbered as to quality, and stamped.

Besides the large amount of shad disposed of in this way, it continued to be a custom all down the years till as late as 1850, for the farmers to come in to the fish-places, from the back towns, and take away in quantities to suit, a great many fish fresh from the river, to pickle and salt for their own consumption, and also to peddle out in neighboring towns. The growth of Hartford made a market for fresh shad; and in course of time the New York market began to demand all there were to spare from home consumption. The catch has steadily decreased from year to year; and shad fishing at the places formerly used here has been abandoned, though there is still some gilling done. Formerly, and down to say fifty years ago, shad were caught in large numbers, during high water in May, along under the bank by Beaver brook bridge, and in the neighborhood. They strayed out of the river channel. Roger Warner's family had a fishing place at the end of their lot. Wait and



Walter caught 999 one season at the point mentioned. When the water subsided, shad were often left in the small pools or pond holes, having been shut in and held, so as to be easily caught.

*Fishing Places.*—The *Hard Bargain* shad-fishing place has been already spoken of. There were several others—such as “Schangs,” a little above *The Landing*—where it was said, only small shad were ever caught, which were called “schangs”—probably an Indian name. At the mouth of Goffe’s Brook was another fishing place, called *Five Nations*; a little further up, was the *Bush* fishing place, probably so named because of the willow bushes there; and still further north was *The Point* privilege—the extreme eastern end of the meadow that crowds the River close over to the hill on the Glastonbury side. Near this is what is known as *Log Bar*, a hindrance to river navigation for 150 years back—and which from early times kept many bottoms from getting above it—so that they had to stop and “lighter” their cargoes to smaller vessels, or discharge cargoes entirely into scows, which carried them on to Hartford—as did the steamboats in some seasons, during their use in the past 30 years.

Above *The Landing*, all the way up the River, as far as it can be seen from that point, the stream, since the first coming of the whites, has been persistently working eastward, thus adding acre upon acre to the Rocky Hill meadows, at this lower side. Above “the Point” the erosion is and has been, for a long time past, on the west side—so that there is a yearly loss. When Capt. Holmes, in 1633 sailed up the Conn. past where Ry-Hill docks now are, he kept due north for a considerable distance, right up to where is a large expanse of excellent meadow, and rounded “the Point” from  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile west of the present River channel.

*Wharves.*—The Town of Wethersfield, in 1764, established a landing at Rocky Hill, for a *ferry*—on the present River front of the Ship-Yard Reservation. The change of the river-course began gradually to make this landing place less desirable for the purpose than the shore just below, which was part of the Boardman grant. When wharves were first made on this B. grant, it is impossible to say; but they came in with the opening and progress of commercial business. The northermost of the present partially existing structures covers that part of the Boardman’s grant which, before 1750, was owned and used by Oliver Pomeroy, as a place of trade, and after him by Joseph Bulkeley. The next wharf south is the river front of the 25 feet which was, in 1772, distributed to the heirs of John Grimes for the use of the ferry; and



was likely, in some way, connected with an old store that stood on the corner next south to this 25 ft. strip; also with the land next north to Alex. Grimes. What is now called the "Steamboat dock," or wharf, is a part of the front of Hannah Clark's land, from her father, Jonathan Smith.

I have supposed that an old wharf where the present Steamboat Wharf now is, was anciently the property of Capt. John Webb, and that he lived in front of it, where David Webb once lived—but of this I am not certain. The *middle* wharf, on the River end of the 25 feet set to the John Grimes heirs, has remained in that family all down the years. The *north*, or Pomeroy wharf, about 1815 and for some years afterwards, belonged to Capt. Wm. Webb and was, partly at least, attached to the Justus Bulkeley, or Isaac Goodrich store—which building, Capt. Webb also owned. These wharves have not always belonged to the persons owning the stores back of them; and have often changed hands.

Besides what is known as the "steamboat wharf" farthest north there are the remains of one in the rear of the Roderick Grimes store.

The River at The Landing has always been a fine place for wharves, at a comparatively small expense for construction, as deep water came in near the edge; and in the older period they were kept in good condition.

These wharves, originally built at the beginning of Ry-Hill's commercial history, were rebuilt or added to as occasion required. After the introduction of steam on the River, the out-freighting business was gradually transferred to "propellers," or the regular "steamboat;" though sailing craft still continued to take in cargoes of produce at the docks up to about 1870. Incoming freight met with the same change; steamboats (both up and down the River) made landings here regularly, until the opening of the railroad, since which they have been mostly discontinued, except that the smaller boats have landed, "on signal." During low water, the New York boats, in several years, from 1870, have docked here for several weeks at a time, transferring freight and passengers to Hartford, in the smaller boats.

In 1855-6, the Steamboat Wharf, now owned by H. H. Grant, being badly out of repair, a stock company was organized for its rehabilitation. The stockholders were James T. Pratt, Wm. Neff, Justus Candee, Daniel A. Mills, Lewis F. Wright, *et alios*; Wm. Neff, *Pres.*, and Justus Candee, Wharfinger. The tolls collected proved to be inadequate to keeping it up; and the raised wooden dock was allowed to go to pieces. S. & E. S. Belden bought the stock and connected the wharf property

with the coal yard of the old foundry; from them it was transferred to H. H. Grant. Its principal use now is for unloading of coal for village consumption, and of coal and pig iron for the foundry.

*The Post Office.*—This was first established here in 1802, ISAIAH BUTLER, Post Master. Capt. ELI GOODRICH kept it for many years from about 1812, in his house, west of the Burying ground, probably where the hotel now is. Before the opening of the turnpike (at which time it is likely that the mails began to be carried through Ry-Hill by stage) the service was performed by carriers on horseback, three times a week, each way. As there was much business that required correspondence, it is probable that letters were sent to and from Stepney much earlier, than the appointment of a postmaster there—probably largely by private hands, and vessels sailing to different domestic ports. JAMES ROBBINS is mentioned as P. M. in the *Conn. Register*, and kept the P. O. for a while at the Shipman Hotel. Capt. ARCHIBALD ROBBINS kept it, first at the Bradford Store, then at The Landing, and then at Shipman's hotel. Connected with his postmastership is a story that he bought a lottery ticket for some small sum and, only a few days before the drawing he sold it to Capt. Austin Robbins, who drew \$2000 on it—much to the chagrin of Capt. Archibald, who had to stand a good deal of chaffing from his friends. This “windfall” to Capt. Austin, however, lasted him a good while, for his twice-a-day walks to The Landing, to take his 11 o'clock and 4 o'clock dram, an exercise in which he religiously persevered, during almost his whole adult life. So that, Capt. Archibald may, after all, have got back nearly all the price of the ticket. Capt. Archibald Robbins was Post Master during the Jackson, Van Buren, Harrison and Tyler administrations. EBENEZER GOODALL held the office at his house, next north of the tavern, and later on the Danforth corner. During Polk's administration, HENRY WEBB, held the office, with the office at his house, now the Standish place. Under the Taylor and Fillmore administrations, HENRY WHITMORE was postmaster—with the office in a small building opposite the old school house, on the site of an old smithy of the elder Wm. Goodrich. Mr. W. was also a P. M. in North Carolina for 19 years. Under Pres. Pierce, the office went again to HENRY WEBB, who kept it for several years in the basement of the Standish house, on the Hartford road. Mr. Webb was during the Buchanan administration, replaced by A. G. BAKER, who held it about half way through the Johnson administration, when he was succeeded by Wm. H. WEBB, who kept the office in the store opposite the Congregational church. At the beginning of the Grant administration, HENRY J. SMITH was appointed—his service ended by his death in

July, 1881—the office being in the store in the old George Robbins house. It then passed to HENRY R. TAYLOR, in the new store; and, at his death to MARTIN J. GRISWOLD.

*The Saybrook Turnpike*, chartered in 1802, commenced 3 or 4 rods south of Goffe's Brook, at the VI mile stone from Hartford. The charter prescribed that it should begin at the south side of said Brook near the six-mile Stone; but the Company never took care of the road north of that point. Except for about a quarter of a mile (from the Methodist Church to the Congregational Church) and the cut south of the Burying ground through Cole's Hill, this turnpike was the old road from Hartford to Middletown. Its franchise was abandoned in 1877, and the road reverted to the town. Up to this time, a toll-gate was maintained at the top of the small rise near the Cromwell line. People, going to and from the mill, and those who did not come over a fixed distance, and physicians on professional business (was a doctor ever known to be on the road near a toll-gate, *except* on professional business ?) were exempt from paying.

The substantial arched stone bridge over Hog Brook, below Cole's Hill, was built (on the site of an older one) by this Turnpike Co., in 1822—the only one in the town which they had to maintain. The Goffe's Brook Bridge has always been a town-charge, since it was set off to Ry-H. in the separation from Wethersfield. A wooden bridge on stone abutments was maintained here, by occasional replacements, up to 1885, when an iron bridge was put in at a cost of \$500.

From the opening of this turnpike, in 1802 or '03, until Middletown got its mail by rail, say 1858, a line of mail stages ran through Ry-H. daily, and until the building of the Valley R. R., in 1871, the line was kept up hence to Hartford and back, to maintain the mail. The passenger traffic was small in summer—more people went to Hartford by boat than by stage, and a still greater number by private conveyances. Before the opening of this turnpike and the introduction of stages, the mails were carried by horseback—three times a week, each way—and it does not appear that, in these early days there was any regular post office at Rocky Hill—the first postmaster known of being after the opening of the turnpike.

*The Shunpike*—a name which came into use after the opening of the turnpike, was applied to the road running southwest from the brook crossing at Adams' Mills, in South Wethersfield, past the Hang Dog farm and on to the Methodist church in the West District, thence south by the Nehemiah Stevens place, at the west side of Amobeset Plains and

so into Cromwell. By taking this road, travelers between Hartford and Middletown avoided the pike and the toll-gate—hence *Shunpike*.

*Railroad.*—The project of a railroad from Hartford to Saybrook, was a topic of general discussion in the stores at The Landing many years before it was built. In 1854 or '55, a preliminary survey was made, and the citizens held a meeting in the Academy Hall, to hear the engineer's report and discuss it. The matter dropped, however, until it was revived in 1870. James C. Walkley, of Haddam, president of the Charter Oak Life Insurance Co., was the chief mover in the project, which finally wrecked his fortune. The road was constructed in 1870-71, and opened in August of the latter year, and the Town of Rocky Hill bonded itself for \$21,000, to subscribe for the stock of the road. Charles T. Hillyer bought the Town bonds, at a discount of 5 per cent.; these bonds were to run 20 years at  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per ct. semi-annual interest, and are still being carried. Individuals also subscribed for small amounts of stock, some paying in full and some only the first installment of 5 per ct.—these latter were "on the inside". The original subscriptions (both of Towns and individuals) were utterly sunk, as also were the funds of the second-mortgage bondholders. The road passed to the first-mortgage bondholders, who organized a new company. The line is now controlled by the Consolidated roads.

With a view of getting a new passenger station built on the west side of the tracks, the town, in 1875, bought a lot of Mrs. Margaret Jagger (between East end of Ferry and Prospect Sts.) at a cost of \$600 or more, and conveyed it to the R. R. company—but, its building was delayed, as usual in such cases, until 1892.

The *Iron Bridge at Goffe's Brook*, erected, 1885, at a cost of \$500, collapsed in Nov., 1887, under the weight of a drove of cattle, with some damage to the latter, and the narrow escape of a boy driver; and was replaced by the same Company, without charge to the Town.

*The First Stove in Town.*—The first cooking-stove set up in the town was owned by Alpheus Goodrich, who occupied an ancient dwelling on the site where Wm. Grimes now dwells. It was of the big "tin plate" pattern, and was a great curiosity for those days, and probably there was not a family within 3 miles of that stove, but some member of it had not called to see it in operation. This was about 1815. There were stoves in use before this, but all of the open Franklin pattern. A story is told in connection with this stove, of a resident of the town who had passed the winter in the South. He returned in March and called to see the stove. Mr. Goodrich went down cellar for a pitcher of cider, and handing the mug to the visitor, remarked "I put 22 barrels



of cider into the cellar, last fall. This is the last of it. Every drop has been brought up out of the cellar in that 2-quart mug!" Allowing 32 gallons to the barrel there would have been 704 gallons, or 1408 trips down to the cellar!

#### NOTES OF SOME ROCKY HILL IMPROVEMENTS.

*Liberty Pole.*—At the Commencement of the Civil War, 1861, by a general subscription, a liberty-pole was erected on the point of land south of the Congregational Church; and a very large American flag—the largest in the State, 40 by 30 feet, was procured for it. The pole became rickety and was taken down about a dozen years later, the flag still remains in evidence on many occasions, in draping the Congregational Church and Conference Room.

*Plank-walk.*—About 1874, one was built from foot of Ferry St., to the Centre Corners, of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft width. It has been allowed to go to ruin, and portions only remain.

In 1882, a fairly good gravel walk was made from the corner of Chester B. Goodrich, S., to the Congregational Church, by the personal labor of the people of the neighborhood.

*Street Lamps.*—About 1875, a few street lamps were put up in the village—but they shine no more athwart the belated traveller's path.

*Church Fence.*—The neatly turned-post fence around the Meeting-house yard, was due originally to the generosity and superintendence of Mrs. Fanny Grimes Camp, in 1887—Cost \$250.

The above items indicate that "at times" the good people of Rocky Hill wake up to a glimmering idea of what might be done to add to the convenience and beauty of their (naturally) lovely village.

In conclusion, it may be truly said that a view of this place, looking westward from the River, will satisfy the observer that here is one of the most agreeably picturesque villages in New England; and one that naturally affords opportunity for development to a much more densely populated community. It is also, occasionally, entitled to be called the head of sloop navigation of the River upon which it is so attractively situate.

*MILLS—The Dividend Grist Mill.*—On what is known as Dividend Brook, near the southeast corner of the town, the early settlers found a fine natural waterfall, over and through a ledge of rocks—which had doubtless been a favorite resort of the Indians, for trapping fish—and which offered a good site for a mill. In June, 1661, only some 25 years after the first coming to Wethersfield village, the Town made a con-



cession to Gov. John Winthrop of 140 acres of land about this water privilege, conditional on his erecting a "corne-mill" there. As he failed to fulfill this condition, he in 1668 released the property to the Town, which, some years later, (Feb.. 1677) granted the same, under the same conditions to Rev. Gershom Bulkeley, then minister at Wethersfield, and he erected the mill the next year. The concession prescribed not only the building of a mill on that site, but that it should be maintained in perpetuity, the failure to so maintain it, vitiating the grant. And under this obligation the mill-privilege has always been held; and, though there have been brief periods when milling was suspended, it has always been sufficient to call the attention of the owners to this original condition of the grant in order to secure a resumption of active operations. After Mr. Bulkeley had built the mill, the Town gave him a further grant of 150 acres, making 290 in all. I have always supposed that these two grants included the land from the River to as far west as the road to Middletown (which road afterward became the turnpike); but the Map of 1721 evidences that his land extended to the East from the Middletown road far enough to take in the mill-site, but did not go to the River. East of the northeasterly end of Mr. Bulkeley's grant, and going to the River, was a large acreage put down as "Capt. Goodrich's living": it probably included the flat known to us as Dividend Plain. South of this was a tier of lots running from the River west to the base of the hill that is south of the mill, which tier included the Dividend Meadow. North of "Capt. Goodrich's living," on the River's side and north of Mr. Bulkeley's land and on the west end coming up to the Middletown road, evidently including what we call Dividend Woods, on both sides of the road, and also including the "Peppercorn" region up to the South School house, was, in 1716, "common land". The division of this tract of common land sometime after 1716 (probably about 1750) was what, we suppose, gave to all the region from the tops of the hills south of Hog Brook, and of the Middletown line, the name of "Dividend," or Divident.

The original mill-dam was built a little further upstream than the present one: when the second one was built, cannot now be ascertained, but the present dam was rebuilt about 1875, generally strengthened and made higher, so as to flood additional land.

Before his death Mr. Bulkeley had conveyed the mill and some of the land about it to his son Edward. A clause in his will would indicate that the mill belonged to the son at the time of his father's death. Edward, who died in 1748, willed it to his sons Peter, Gershom and Jonathan, to be used by each "by turns, during their lives, and then to go to the

"longest lived" of the three. It was thus used by the brothers, and finally remained in the possession of Gershom, after some dispute as to the meaning to be placed upon the words "longest lived." From Gershom it passed to his son Hosea, who, about 1812, built a new mill and dam in the place of the old ones, which had already been some years out of repair. Then, another Gershom (son of Hosea) came into the ownership, or operated it under his father. The property passed out of the Bulkeley family about 1830, after a tenure of 150 years and of five generations.<sup>1</sup>

After this, the mill was used for a short time by a Mr. Russell, of Middletown, for the manufacture of axes. It then passed to Israel Williams, Wm. Butler and others; but was not much utilized by them. Then it passed to Leonard R. Wells and Alfred Wilcox, who manufactured chisels, plantation hoes, and other edged tools for many years, until the death of Mr. Wilcox, due to his being caught and whirled over a shafting in the mill. Here was first made, in quantity, the "Never-slip" horseshoe (now in the hands of a Boston concern) which had removable corks invented by Joseph Jorey, an Englishman and blacksmith, who had been running a shop at Griswoldville, and about 1865, moved into the Rocky Hill west district. Not long after he sold out his right in the invention, getting for it, as was understood, about \$10,000; he died not many years after, and was buried in the Rocky Hill cemetery. After one or two other changes, Mr. C. E. Billings (of the Billings & Spencer Co.,) of Hartford, with others, bought the property and a new building was put up in place of the old one which is mainly used for drop-forgings. In 1884, Mr. B. and Geo. D. Edwards erected a new brick building on the hill, south of the dam, the machinery in which is operated by a long belt from the mill in the hollow. The brick building is used for the making of manufacturers' tools. Grain grinding is done in a small building in the hollow.

An old account-book, still extant, of the Jonathan Bulkeley above referred to, commencing in 1758, contains numerous charges for hard bread and crackers sold to divers parties and carted to The Landing; evidencing that a *bakery* was connected with the mill at this period or a

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<sup>1</sup> This controversy, as to whether the words used in Edward Bulkley, will, viz.: "longest lived" were to be taken to mean the son who lived *last*, or the one who lived the *most years*, arose between the heirs of Gershom and Jonathan, the former born in 1714, the latter in 1718. The death of neither of these is known. To have started the controversy, it was necessary that Jonathan should have outlived Gershom; but it is to be supposed that when he died he was not as old as Gershom was when *he* died; and so it was held the word "longest-lived" meant he who lived *the most years*—since Gershom's heirs held the will.

little later. This hard bread and crackers were made mainly for the supply of vessels sailing hence from the West Indies and elsewhere. Among other purchasers we find the name of Silas Deane, of Wethersfield, afterwards one of the Commissioners to France, from the Congress of the United Colonies, during the American Revolution.

Of the 190 acres of land originally granted to Mr. Bulkeley, there now remains as attached to the mill privilege, the lot in which is the pond and a small tract west and north of the road that runs up the hill and around into Pleasant Valley. The farm extending east of the factory building, to the River, and including the old saw-mill site, and the dam below the factory buildings—all south of the road that runs east to the River (the Dividend Bar-road) probably became connected at a later day. Judge Adams thinks that Edward Bulkeley, (who probably operated the original mill for his father (Rev. Gershom) and who resided in the near vicinity of the mill, perhaps in the home where his (Edward's) son Jonathan lived later) had a fulling-mill either here, or at the Hang Dog stream at Griswoldville; but the probability is that it was connected with the Dividend "corne mill".

Previous to the building of the Butler, Curtis & Merriam mill just east of the IX mile stone on the turnpike, nearly all the grain sent for grinding from the farmers of the East part of the present Town of Cromwell (Upper Middletown) came to this Bulkeley mill. But after the building of the Butler mill, their custom was diverted to it, strongly by the fact that, as the road ran, it was nearer to them by nearly a mile, than the older mill. Owing to this, and partly because of the division and sale to other parties of the land east of the turnpike and between it and the Dividend road (the old road by which the people from south of Drum Hill and below to Cromwell traveled from the main road east to the Bulkeley mill) was abandoned, fenced up and taken for private use. By this means, the road from over the hill, just west of the mill, became a *cul-de-sac*; so that any one wishing to get from the neighborhood of the mill to the south part of the Town on the main road, had to come north on the Dividend road and then northeast through the woods up to the present South District School house. When Butler & Sugden built the Pleasant Valley Foundry, in 1854, they made a private road to it, directly west to the turnpike—the road ending at the foundry. Three or four years later, the Town laid out a new road from this *cul-de-sac* at the Bulkeley mill, southwest past the foundry, and on in nearly the same direction, to the intersection of the road at the Wm. Butler grist-mill, and Butler & Sugden abandoned their private road. By this time the old-road exit west from the Dividend road had passed people's

remembrance, although its traces from the mill west up to within a few rods of the turnpike are still visible. The head of this old road was directly opposite the Curtis place, corner of the turnpike and Plains St. Down this road, for a hundred years or so from 1678, went the farmers of East Upper Middletown, on horseback, or in ox-cart, with their grists to the mill. It was not a mere path through the woods, but a *made* road, leveled off, the hollows filled and with a bridge over a gully beyond the first hill west of the mill. Between the time of the probable abandonment of this—and the opening of the Pleasant Valley road—a period of some 75 years—all information concerning it seems to have died out. The probability is, that by the time the mill property had passed into the hands of Gershom Bulkeley, (grandson of the original grantee) after the death of his brothers Peter and Jonathan, that the ancestral lands south of Drum Hill were in the hands of other descendants; and, as the business from the south had been tapped, and all from the north of Drum Hill went down either on the Dividend road, or through the woods southeast from the site of the South School house, to meet the Dividend road, it was no longer of much account to keep open the road that ran east and southeast from opposite the Curtis place; and as, for his private convenience, the mill could be quite as easily reached by going east from the Bulkeley residence opposite the Sandbank and then south to strike the old road in the woods, or by keeping on southeast through a hollow leading out on to the plain and the road north of the mill, Mr. Gershom and his son Hosea had a private cartpath that way—of which some evidence yet remains.

After the Mill passed out of the Bulkeley family, perhaps before, this way through the woods was also fenced up; and then—and up to about 1800—the turnpike at the South School house could be reached from the Dividend road through a hollow that was northwest from the old Freeman-Cleveland corner and came out into Peppercorn Plain. Peppercorn Plain was fenced up about 1800, since when there is a road up another hollow, still further north, that comes out on the Peppercorn road about halfway of its length, and east of the Schoolhouse. Thus the two hollows through the hill west of the Dividend road were each, in turn, made use of for a road after the original road further south had been discontinued. How people originally got on to the main road with teams, from the old Dividend “corne mill” without coming up north to the South Schoolhouse, had become a conundrum with the inhabitants born after 1800; but a survey of the ground renders it perfectly plain. For many years the road was known as the Curtis road—probably from its emerging on the main road by the Curtis place.



*The Butler Grist Mill.*—About 1775, Dea. Simeon Butler, Josiah Curtis and Burrage Merriam built a grist-mill on Dividend Brook, east of the turnpike, over the hill from the IX-mile (from Hartford) stone, near the south end of the Town.<sup>1</sup> After about 50 years of use (say 1825) Capt. William, son of Dea. Simeon Butler, came into possession of the property, and put up a new mill on the site of the old one. This was in use up to about 1870, latterly in the hands of Robert Sugden, Jr., who had come into possession of this property, as well as of the saw-mill nearby. The old grist-mill was demolished about 1880, by E. R. Silliman, at that time tenant. Part of its foundation wall still remains. For a year or two prior to 1861, Frederick R. Butler made pen-handles and did some other small jobs in wood-turning at this mill.

*The Butler Sawmill.*—About 1829, Capt. Wm. Butler built a saw-mill near his gristmill, at the south end of the town, under the hill, east of the turnpike, on Dividend Brook; the water being supplied by the gristmill power. This mill was in pretty active use until about 1868, when it was burned; and replaced by a new building, yet standing, but not of use and decaying. The property passed from Capt. Butler to Robert Sugden, Jr., and while in his ownership it was used by Sidney Bidwell from about 1875-1878, in the making of lumber and railroad ties, and to it was attached (later, after the gristmill had been abandoned) a small building which, also, has gone into disuse.

*The Robbins Mill.*—North of the road from Rocky Hill village to Griswoldville (Parsonage St.) and a little way down the stream that crosses the road before it intersects the road from the north (West St.) are the remains of an old dam, and the site of a grist-mill, which belonged to the family of Zebulon Robbins. The mill must have been built in the beginning of the 18th Century, as it was going to decay in 1800, and was abandoned about that time. It stood in the hollow, some way below the dam: its site and the track of the race-way are still visible. There are some marks of *two* race-ways at this mill-site. The place where one building stood is so far within the hollow that it could not well have been a *saw-mill*, for there could not have been a log-yard near it.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Chas. Williams used to relate this anecdote about the lock on the Butler Mill, viz.: Some one had broken in and stolen from the mill, several bags of flour. To guard against a repetition of this, Dea. Simeon put a new lock on the door, very large and with a key that weighed one and a quarter pounds. On this he greatly prided himself, and showed it to his customers as a certain security against further depredations—until some one called his attention to the fact that the *door was hung on leather hinges*, which could have been readily cut with a knife!



I think there was a saw-mill a little further up. The lot is still known as the "Mill-pond Pasture." Judge Adams says "at Rocky Hill, Joshua Robbins, Jr., Eliphalet and Ebenezer Dickinson built a saw-mill on a branch of Goffe's Brook, about 1713, As there is no evidence of any other dam on a branch of Goffe's Brook in this town, than the one above mentioned, and as Mr. Ackley Williams remembered a *grist*-mill there in 1800, there may be an error as to the saw-mill; but, possibly, both grinding and sawing were done at the place.

*The Belden and Dickinson Saw-Mill.*—As early, probably, as 1775, Aaron Belden and Obadiah Dickenson had a saw-mill in the West District, South of the West end of New France St.: which washed away before the remembrance of Aaron's son, Ashbel (born 1798; died 1885). Mr. Ashbel thought that two mills had been washed away from the same site. This mill-dam was about a third of the way down the gorge, west of the bridge, and there are still some remains of it existing. In 1824, Ashbel Belden and his brother Leonard erected a new saw-mill a few rods west of the site of the old one, near the opening of the gorge, which was in use up to about 1850, when it was given over to decay, a process which took about 25 years—Nehemiah Stevens being at that time owner. The log-yard of the older mill (or mills) was on the south side of the brook; of the latter, on the north side. Just above the end of the pond of the older mill, and east of the road and bridge, was an earth-dam across the stream, which flooded the small meadow above it, forming a subsidiary pond or storage reservoir. Whether its making dates back to the erection of the mill itself is not known. In 1883-34 James S. Stevens rebuilt this reservoir for the making of cider by the use of water power—and it is now in use in the cider-season. Its grinding is done by a turbine wheel driven by water, and the capacity is about 240 bushels an hour, or enough for nearly 8 barrels of cider. The site of this mill was once occupied (say about 1810) by a button shop, in which a Lewis Hart and his son made pewter and later wooden buttons; but being prosecuted for an infringement of patent, gave up the business after a few years.

*Goodrich Sawmill.*—In the early part of the present century there was a sawmill on Dividend Brook, close by and just above where the railroad now runs. It was operated by Ephraim Goodrich, whom an old account book shows to have been here in 1797-8. As it is but a few rods below the old Bulkely gristmill, built in 1678, and on the same property; and as a sawmill must have been one of the needs of the settlers not many years later, it appears likely that this sawmill might have been about contemporaneous with the cornmill.

Rev. Gershom Bulkely's will, made May 26, 1712, has this item: "To my son Edward, I give and bequeath the clock now standing in its case in his house, as also my seal ring, the great gilt spoon, the least of my two silver porringers \* \* \* \* also, my whip-saw, tension-saw and timber-chain, being of use for his mill." The expression "of use for his mill" would indicate a *sawmill* rather than a *gristmill*, as being then a part of the Bulkely possessions. It tumbled to decay about 1825; its dam and the mill foundations yet remaining in a good state of preservation. William and Thomas Tryon operated this mill for several years—bringing timber down the river to be sawed here.

Chas. C. Butler has informed us that his father (Samuel) used to tell him of an ancient sawmill on Hog Brook in the pasture, right south of the house on South Street, where Charles and his father lived; and that he himself had taken stone out of the old raceway. The land on the north side also evidences the earth-wing of the dam.

The before-mentioned mill sites with the pond above are all now in the possession of Mr. C. E. Billings. In 1883 or '84, the dam was thoroughly rebuilt, and the pond is now used for water storage (for the benefit of the old Bulkely mill privilege below), and as a fish pond.

*Fulling Mill.*—On the north stream, at the end of New France Street, in the West district, and under the hill, north of the road, Horace Porter and John Deming had a fulling and carding mill, from about 1814 to 1826. It was moved and is now a dwelling on the south side of the road, at the foot of the hill east of the West District school house.

*Button Mill.*—About 1809, or '10, Lewis Hart and his son Eldad had a button shop on the stream south of the west end of New France Street. It stood just where the road crosses the stream and the little water power needed was obtained without a dam. This fact would indicate that the dam here was not built until Belden and Dickinson built their mill in 1824. The button mill must have stood near the present cider mill.

*Brick Making*, in the Colony began at a comparatively early date, since, by 1685, it elicited from the General Court, the following enactment: "This Court being informed that there is a variety of sizes used in the making of bricks, which is a great damage to those who have occasion for such ware, doe order that for the future, the length of all bricks shall be nine inches and their breadth four inches and a half, and that they be two inches and a half thick; and that the upper side of all moulds that are used to make bricks, are to be shod with

iron; and whosoever shall put to sale any brick that are not according to this order, shall forfeit 5s. per thousand, the one halfe to the informer, and the other half to the country treasury, where it is complayned of." Brick making, as is evident from this order, had become a well recognized and profitable employment prior to this date; and it is by no means unlikely that previous to 1685, brick had been made within the limits of Stepney parish. Eighty-five years later the Colonial Assembly revised the regulations for this industry, by enacting, that, "For the future, all bricks made within this Colony for sale shall be full eight inches in length, four inches in breadth, and two inches thick."

Old Wethersfield records show that, as early as 1653, Matthew Williams (probably the Settler) employed Samuel Dickinson in making brick, paying him 6*d.* a day in wampun (small wages, unless, he was then merely a boy); and later there must have been much brick making here—probably just north of Goffe's Brook, above the bridge and just west of the road, in Stepney parish. This old Williams' yard continued to furnish much of the brick made in town during the 18th and in the early part of the 19th century. The brick used in the building of the present Walter Robbins' house, erected by Esq. John Robbins, in 1767, were probably burned here, it being the *first* house in this section made of *native* brick. The debris of the old brick kiln are to be found in the road that runs north from the old parsonage corner, past the "Old Maids' Place," so called (Brook Street), and the Robbins-Griswold house, and out by Hewitts & Matthews factory and about west of the top of the Long Hill. From 1790, to about 1820, or later, large quantities of brick were exported hence in vessels trading to the West Indies, often being taken as ballast. The brick used in the building of the North District school house, erected 1782, in the road near the north end of Rev. Burrage Merriam's home lot (now the Ryer Hotel property) were probably made near, and, just above, the Goffe Bridge, on the west side of the road in Stepney parish—in a yard then owned by Matthew Williams. In the old Williams accounts, is a charge made in 1803, against Chester Williams, of "half of 500 brick which you put into our kiln, and for which we were to have half." From 1800 to 1808, also, there are many charges of brick in varied quantities, as high even as 5,000. As the land south of Charles Butler's was a part of the original Elias Williams homestead, and later of his son John, the natural inference is that John and Chester Williams made brick along Hog Brook somewhere south of the John Williams mansion.

*Stone Cutting.*—A stone yard was formerly located on the turnpike about west of where the old meeting house used to stand, south of Lewis Whitmore's joiner shop, and was owned from about 1800 or a little earlier, by Seth Dickinson. From this pit came a good share of the brown stone gravestones in the Rocky Hill graveyard; also some stone sinks yet extant in town, and the underpinning and steps of the Congregational Church, which were done by Mr. D., who, in his later years became deranged.

Another stone pit north of the road at the town west of the Boardman-Holmes place, was also being worked in 1785; but the deposit was small and was worked only intermittently.

"*The Stone Pits*," so termed in the old records, I had always supposed to have been the diggings just west of the Roger Goodrich house at the top of the hill east of the gully-brook near by. But, later day explorations, show that, at some remote time, attempts were made to quarry stone at a point nearly south of the Allen A. Robbins' house, on the north side hill, and near by the old road from Sam. Williams' corner west to the Return Boardman house. Excavations, tho' not to any great extent, were evidently made there; and it may be, that, when "stone pits" are mentioned, this opening was included with the one the fourth of a mile or so further west.

*Polishing Grit.*—When the deposits of this *silica sand* were first opened in this town, is unknown. As early as 1800, a Middletown man had discovered its virtues and was putting it in packages and selling it for polishing brassware, harness mountings, etc.; and about 1835, it was much used at Northampton and elsewhere for moulding sand. Later, Archibald Miller sold much of it, as did Levi Smith, and later his son John, up to about 1870. The Smiths got out this sand on the west side of the turnpike, at Cole's Hill, from the high bank at that point, where it had probably been uncovered by the plowing of the previous quarter of a century. For the last twenty-five or thirty years, Albro Griswold (now dec'd) and his son Daniel C., as also Samuel Dimock, have taken large quantities from the bank on the west side of the way, just south of Hog Brook, on the Dividend road. Some years ago a stock company was formed called the *Rocky Hill Polish Company*, for mining this sand—now carried on by Samuel Dimock, one of the original stock owners. The grit is extensively used all over the U. S. by manufacturers of silverware and white-ware goods of all kinds—preparatory to plating—for which purposes it is conceded to have no superior.



*Tanneries.*—The first tannery in Stepney was established in the early part of the 18th century, by Ezekiel Smith, and was continued up to about 1824, by his son Levi. It was on the west side of the road, near the gully that crosses just below the Centre Corners. Merriam Williams, also, had tan vats and a bark mill in the rear of his residence on Elm Street very early in the present century. A memorandum left by him speaks of buying the machinery for a bark mill, in March, 1813, for \$53. In April, he carted the timber for, and raised the building. The following entry shows that his son Thomas bought the Kellogg place (where S. Dimock now lives) in March, 1843, and in August, bought off and moved half of the bark mill, or tan house, to that place for a barn. "Fifteen yoke of oxen drew half of my tan-house into Thomas' lot for a barn." Mr. Merriam Williams also carried on shoemaking, to a large extent for that day, in connection with his tanning business.

About 1800, or earlier, Dea. Ebenezer Goodrich, who resided where Jared G. Dimock now lives, had a tannery at that corner, for many years—and also carried on the shoemaking trade, in which he employed several workmen.

*Shoemaking.*—In olden times, shoes and boots were made by the village shoemaker; but, some 80 years ago their manufacture was begun, though not in factories. Shoedealers arose, who began to have stock cut out, and this was taken to his home by the shoemaker, made up and returned to the dealer—as "ready made." Sometimes the shoemaker lived in a little shop and took apprentices to learn the trade—as was the case with Mr. Eli Goodrich, who had a small shop in the rear of his house on Broad Street, next west of the corner. Excellent work was done by some of these men who labored in this way. William LeVaughn, who lived, until about 1878, in the house on South Street, opposite the John Williams farm was a capital workman in fine shoes for ladies' wear. He was also an excellent fifer, and was for many years fifer to the Putnam Phalanx, of Hartford, and accompanied them on their annual excursions.

From an old account book preserved by Mr. Charles Williams, it is learned that in 1799, Willis Williams made shoes for the people. He lived in an old house where Lewis Whitmore now lives. In 1802, Wait Goodrich was making shoes in a shop now part of the late Levi Smith's house, south of the Centre Corners. In 1786, Ephraim Williams carried on shoemaking, supposably at Dividend. In 1788, Edward Bulkely, who lived in the old house where Louis Whitmore

now lives made shoes. Samuel Holmes was a shoemaker at Rocky Hill, 1788, and Edwin Wright and Levi Boardman also in 1810.

In the corner west of the property now called the Davis Smith place, on the south side of Ferry Street, and east of Cross Street, Isaac Bull, in the early part of the century had a shoemaker's shop (a favorite resort for male gossips and retailers of town news) where he employed a number of workmen. Bull removed to Ohio, in company with Capt. Jason Robbins, and Timothy Clark, driving in their own teams, and settled near Cleveland. Capt. Archibald (son of Capt. Jason) followed his father at a later date.

*Coal.*—Aside from that used for blacksmithing work, very little coal was used in Rocky Hill before 1840. The foundry at the river, in 1849, had coal for its use and sold a little to those needing it. About the same time, Benj. G. Webb began bringing in small amounts for sale, having a yard on the "ship reservation" on the hillside north of the ferry way; L. M. and Charles G. Beaumont were in the business, and about 1872, S. and E. S. Belden took hold of the coal trade, using a part of the old foundry buildings for its storage. After the fire there, the present coal sheds were erected on the site of the burned buildings. Messrs. Belden sold out the business and property to H. H. Grant, along with the steamboat dock. Then the Pierce Hardware Company ran the coal business for a time, but returned it finally to Mr. Grant. Ambrose Wolcott also did something in the coal line about 1850.

*Boring for Coal and Oil.*—In the pastures between Brook Street and north part of West Street, in the valley of one of the branches of the south branch of Goffe's Brook, northeast of the old Zebulon Robbins mill pond, is a spot that has, at different times, attracted attention by offering suspicions of an oil, or of a coal deposit. An oily scum on the water that oozed up below the bank, finally attracted so much attention, that in 1835, the *Rocky Hill Mining Co.* was formed, in the language of the lease, to "search for and procure coal, slate, stone or other minerals." The stockholders were William Webb, Dr. Daniel Fuller, Wait Williams, Abijah Collins, Nahum Wilder, Henry Bulkeley, Archibald Robbins, Roderick Grimes and Levi Goodrich 2d, of Rocky Hill; and Robert Hunt, James Killiam, Howell T. Horton, Howell W. Brown, Oliver Brainard, Geo. Merrick, Benjamin Taylor and Samuel Taylor, mostly or all of Glastonbury; and on a paid up stock capital of \$400, the company leased 15 acres of land from Zebulon Robbins, 11 from Hannah Robbins, and 20 from Hannah Merriam, for a term of 50 years, with the privilege of another 50 years extension.

A tenth part of the net proceeds was to be paid to the owners of these lands. A couple of men from Vermont were hired to open up these "great expectations." After boring down a considerable depth, the borers struck a sulphur spring and a stream spouted 20 feet above the surface; some of the water being used, proved to be a brisk cathartic. The smell of sulphur was so strong that the family with which the operators boarded (that of Elias W. Robbins) could not well eat at the same table with them. As the boring was continued, the flow was lost. They struck and went through a vein of good coal, but it was only about one-fourth inch in thickness. The money having been expended without satisfactory results, the work was abandoned and the company dissolved. Later, some New York parties attempted to exploit the "find" again—but with no results. About 1862, William S. Butler of Rocky Hill, and a Mr. Thorpe, of N. Y., then temporarily keeping the hotel in the Capt. Wm. Webb's place, leased the old boring, with a view to making a further search, but soon abandoned it. A little reflection, based on even a slight theoretical knowledge of geology, might have assured these parties that the location was not in a coal-bearing region. A sulphur spring here, however, is quite within the geological possibilities—and sufficient search might develop something in that line worth utilizing.

*Distilleries.*—In January, 1811, Miss Betsy Danforth, writing to her father, then in Philadelphia, says: "Mr. Culver was here yesterday; said the still had raised rye to 8s. the bushel; it would soon be \$2."

As the town sold rye at that period (raising more than could be used at home) doubtless the farmers appreciated the still.

About 1817, a gin distillery was built south of the present coal yard, north of and close by Frog Brook, and east of the road. It belonged to Justus Bulkeley and was operated by Nahum Wilder (father of Mrs. Walter Robbins) and Alfred Bailey, for several years. Later, New England rum and cider brandy were made there. Justus Bulkeley, at that time, traded at The Landing.

The distilling of gin, in those days, was as respectable a business, as the making of maple sugar, and lots of good old New England deacons made their money by it, without ever dreaming of coming short of glory, as a consequence.

*Wagon Making.*—About 1835, William Neff and Edward (father of Horace R.) Merriam, built a building a little way north of the site of the old distillery (on land bought of Mrs. Graham), where, for many years, they did quite a large business in the making of carriages and sulkies—mostly for the Southern trade—as they had a

carriage repository at Wilmington, N. C. Neff sold out to Merriam and went into trade at that place for some years, returning to Rocky Hill about 1860. Mr. Merriam continued the business until his death, employing from a dozen to fifteen men in his shop for a great part of the time. He lived on the New road (where his son now resides) by the big pine tree, in the house built by James Stanley. After Mr. M.'s death, about 1845, the shop remained closed, until 1849, when the *Rocky Hill Mfg. Co.* started an iron foundry in it; adding a small house for engine and boiler. Small cast-iron goods were made there by Ambrose Wolcott, John Bulkeley, Edward F. Robbins, Lucius M. Beaumont, Justus Candee and Robert Sugden, Jr., who composed the company. Wolcott soon controlled the stock, and under an arrangement with him, M. B. Hartley undertook to carry on the business, but not succeeding, it was abandoned in 1853. For some time after 1854, Lewis Whitmore had a carpenter shop in the building—which again becoming vacant—was next utilized by Elias W. Robbins and James Warner (who bought it) in manufacturing vinegar and “champagne cider.” Next, Jas. A. Robbins came in possession and made a storehouse of it. He sold out to S. & E. S. Belden and after being put to several uses—among others, that of a boarding house for men employed in the construction of the railroad—it was finally burned in 1876.

Before Neff & Williams built the wagon shop on the east side of the road south of the Boundakee, or David Webb house, Wm. Neff had been doing a small business in same line in an old shop on the northeast corner of yard of Jacob Williams' place, later of Justus Robbins, of Roderick Grimes and now of Mrs. Shipman. Neff was the son of Joseph, the pump and block maker at The Landing. John L. Thayer, Henry Olds, Stephen Bliss and Henry Harris also worked with Neff in this old shop.

Oliver Tucker, Elisha Gilbert, Theo. B. Rogers, Benj. Snell, and others learned the wagon making trade with Neff & Williams.

*Clock Cases and Pewtering.*—In 1841, a building drawn from The Landing to the northeast corner of what (previous to the building of the railroad) was the front yard of the Roderick Grimes residence, was used for a while by Wait Warner, in the manufacture of clock cases. After him Lewis Whitmore made there pewter teapots, block-tin tumblers and cups, etc.; then it was a turning shop, with horse power; then a bedstead manufactory; then a carpenter shop, until it was finally burned.

*Pewter and Tin Ware.*—A little over an hundred years ago, Capt. Thos. Danforth, of Rocky Hill, manufactured pewter and tin goods,



mostly for the Southern trade—using horse power for his machinery. Among his apprentices was Ashbel Griswold, a native of Rocky Hill (b. 1784), who, in 1808, went to Meridan and there began the making of block-tin goods, and ultimately became one of the first promoters of the Britannia ware industry, since grown into an important line of manufacture in that town. He died in 1853, wealthy and respected. The northeast of the Centre Corners in Rocky Hill was the Thomas Danforth place.

*Tinware.*—Near Talcott A. Arnold's residence, about 1825, Russell and Jalon Dickinson made up tin ware for travelling tin peddlers; a Dr. Ritter had his offices and drug shop here for a time; went to New York in the business of putting up medicine chests for ships. Orrin B. Porter for several years from 1845 was also engaged in the tinware manufacture. The same shop was at one time on the Dr. Hosford place.

*Tailoring.*—About 1798, a Stillman built the present Wait Warner house and had his tailor shop in the north front room; he married a daughter of Dr. Aaron Hosford, as early as 1786; and in the early part of this century, Dea. Seth Hart, who lived about opposite where Mr. Riley's smithy now is, had a small shop just east of his house where he did tailoring.

*Hatters.*—Near the northeast corner of Miss Belinda Goodrich's home lot, lower end of Prospect Street, Revillo Chapman from 1820 to 30 had a hatter's shop, mostly for village use. Chapman succeeded Timothy Clarke, who then carried on the hatter's business up to 1819, when he left and became one of the first settlers of Cleveland, Ohio. John Bulkely learned the hatter's trade in this shop.

*Broom Making* has been carried on in the winters for the last forty years, till lately, by Talcott A. Arnold in a shop near his residence, east side of Hartford Avenue, generally making up his stock on shares, for the raisers. This industry is now gone—as no one raises broom corn. During summers, he is a ship caulker. Before him, "Squire Bill" (Wm. Robbins, 2d) made brooms at his home, next north of the "Rocky Hill Hotel" property. Alfred Bailey was another who made brooms. The output of brooms made in Rocky Hill in 1845 was 5,500—as broom corn was formerly largely raised in this section.

Previous to 1810, Theodore Blinn was the only person in this section who made *plows*, which were quite different from those now made. Mr. John Williams had one of Blinn's plows that weighed 200

pounds. Its beam was a stick of white oak, six inches square. It took five yoke of oxen and a pair of horses to plow with it in new land, and it would root up stumps of six inches diameter. The boards of these plows were of wood nosed with wrought iron. In using the larger sizes, in stumpy ground, the body of a cart was taken off, and the plow hitched to the axle. Mr. Blinn's shop was on the Cabull road, east of the hill, the eighth of a mile west of the Shunpike.

*Cooper Shop.*—In 1809, Elnathan Butler had a cooper's shop down by "the gate," at the south line of the town. About 1800, and before, Hez. Whitmore had a cooper shop on the point of land north of Oliver Pomeroy's store, about where is Mr. Hurlbut's horse-shed—coopering for vessels at wharves. Later, Mr. W. had a shop at his residence where Robert Sugden, Jr., lived later.

*The Pierce Hardware Co.*—In 1881, a number of citizens of this place, by an ownership subscription, bought the Candee property at The Landing and built on it the huge foundry building now there, and which cost, outside of the engine, boilers and shafting, about \$11,000. About \$6,000 was raised by subscription and the buildings mortgaged for \$5,000, to Jonathan Webster, of Berlin, Conn. The concern was sold to A. B. Heart & Co., of Middletown. They put in an engine, and after a short time induced a Mr. Maltbie, of Waterbury, to invest in it; failed after eighteen months, and the buildings reverted to the subscribers of the building fund Heart & Co. manufactured hatchets, blankets, door bolts, cast-iron goods, etc. The Webster mortgage was foreclosed and possession taken for the mortgage. The plant remained idle till 1884, when a new company was organized under the above name. This company now occupies the building, for the manufacture of cast iron "non-boil-over" kettles, brackets, door hangings, etc. Capital stock \$40,000. *President*, Clinton B. Davis; *Treasurer*, Samuel Dimock; *Secretary*, J. W. Camp, Jr.; *Superintendent*, Chas. E. Pierce. In March, 1886, an enameling furnace was put up for lining iron kettles, etc., by especial process. The company is said to be now doing a profitable business in the same establishment, in the manufacture of sundry articles of hollow hardware. But the leading occupation of Rocky Hill people is agricultural; and their productions are much the same as those of the parent township.

*SOCIETIES, ETC.—Free Masons.*—The charter to Columbia Lodge, No. 25, was granted May 18, 1793, to Asa Deming, Benjamin Ames, William Nott, Selah Francis, Oliver Goodrich, Andrew M. Combe,

Roger Riley, Jason Boardman, Richard Riley, Enos Robbins, Jason Robbins and John Nott. The lodge was instituted at Stepney at the Long Tavern of Josiah Grimes,' on June 26, of the same year.

Captain John Nott was the first Master and was commander of a war vessel on Long Island Sound in 1777. Most of the charter and new members were sea captains, merchants, officers of militia, doctors, etc. John Nott, William Nott, Oliver Goodrich and Jason Boardman were sea captains; Asa Deming, merchant; Roger Riley, saddler—men in their day of no little consequence in the community.

The lodge was convened for the second time at Josiah Grimes' house July 10, 1793, when "Brother Gideon Wells was passed to Fellow Craft." Josiah Grimes' house was a tavern and stood where the Rocky Hill freight depot now is, and was known as the "Long Tavern," being a long building, one end wood, the other brick.

The lodge met at Brother Selah Francis', who seems to have been secretary at this time, December 19, 1793, pursuant to adjournment, at 4 o'clock p. m., and voted to pay him five shillings per night for room and firewood, to be paid quarterly. At the first annual election of officers, held January 1, 1794, "Brother John Nott was continued in the chair and Brother Selah Francis chosen secretary."

May 4, 1796, Asa Deming was chosen second Worthy Master. January, 2, 1799, the lodge held its meeting at the hall in the house of Capt. John Marsh, on Ferry Street. Some meetings were held at Simeon Williams' (now the Wait Robbins') tavern; also, at Mrs. Prudence Bulkely's house—probably the Capt. Charles Bulkely house, next north of T. A. Arnold's. In 1814, the home of the lodge was transferred to South Glastonbury. On May 18, 1893, the lodge held its Centennial meeting at South Glastonbury, when the Worshipful Master, W. H. H. Miller, read an historical address.

*Ashlar Lodge* was instituted here in 1874, but owing to some informalities in its working, was deprived of its charter, after about a year's existence. Its home was, at one time, in the house now occupied by Wm. A. Brown, and later at Lewis F. Wright's residence. Rev. Chas. H. Webster was Worshipful Master; Chas. G. Beaumont, Senior Warden; Joel K. Green, Junior Warden; Geo. W. Hewitt, Senior Deacon; Wm. H. DeWolf, Junior Deacon; Jas. Warner, **Secretary**, Daniel H. Medbury, Treasurer; Wm. R. Bulkely, tiler.

*Good Templars*.—Valley Lodge, No. 133, organized in Rocky Hill, 25 February, 1870, numbered 35 members at the first installation, and rapidly increased to about one hundred. The promotion of total abstinence from liquors was its prime object, and literary exercises

and musical entertainments were accessories to the main end. Its meetings were held in Academy Hall, for four years, when, from one cause and another, its membership (which was from Rocky Hill, Cromwell, South Wethersfield, Griswoldville and South Glastonbury) decreased and its last session was held 31st March, 1874.

*Agricultural Club.*—Organized about 1861, proposed for its object an annual Autumn exhibition of agricultural, horticultural, promological and dairy products and machinery and implements, together with art and fancy work displays. Its *one only fair*, held in the Conference Room of the Congregational Church was interesting and promising, but its life was strangled by suspicions of some ulterior political designs.

About 1850, or perhaps earlier, was organized *The Elderly Ladies' Knitting Society of Rocky Hill*, with the objects of charitable work and mutual cultivation. Rev. Dr. Chapin drew up its Rules, and Mrs. C. was its first president; its work was the knitting of woolen socks and stockings, sold at a small advance on the cost, or given away to the very needy. The members (mostly connected with the Congregational Church), met weekly at the house of some member, the hostess supplying tea. The members, according to Mr. Chas. Williams' recollection, were the wives of Rev. Dr. Chapin, Dea. Joel Goodrich, Dea. J. G. Dimock, Nahum Wilder, Revilo Chapman, Roderick Grimes, Abijah Collins, Davis Smith, Ackley Washington and Merriam Williams, Geo. and Allen Robbins, Andrew, Horace and Charles Williams, John Bulkley, Alfred Wilcox, Samuel Butler, Gershom Bulkley, William Goodrich, Ephraim Bowers, Linus Deming, Henry Whitmore, Jasper Goodrich. In 1888, there were but three of these then living, viz.: Mrs. Smith, ae. 90; Mrs. Deming, ae. about 85, and Mrs. Chas. Williams, ae. 85. This knitting society was probably the parent of the

*The Ladies' Benevolent Society*, formed in connection with the Congregational Church, in 1850, and with a membership of 50, having for its objects social intercourse and the collection of funds for the church and missionary purposes. Its meetings, held once in two weeks, have generally been at private houses, until within the past five years, when they have been held in the church parlor. A similar organization is connected with the *Methodist* church here.

*Physicians.*—The first resident physician of Rocky Hill, was—as far as we can learn—Dr. AARON HORSFORD, said to have come from Marlborough. He studied medicine with a Dr. Hull, in Meriden, and married his daughter; located here in 1774, and died 7 April, 1804,



of "suffusion of the lungs" in his 57th year. His granddaughter, Mrs. Wm. Neff, says he had a collegiate education. He resided, for many years, opposite to Wait Warner's present dwelling, and, I think, for a time, in Capt. Charles Bulkeley's house; later in life he built the large house on the east side of the road, just north of where the old meeting house stood, and lately occupied by L. M. Beaumont. In this connection, a story has come down to us, that the Dr. was called up one bitterly cold night, and on going to the door, was told by a man just disappearing around the corner of the house, that the caller had "found a meeting-house astray in the middle of the road, and had stopped his team, to notify the doctor, so that the building might be arrested!"

Dr. JOSEPH HIGGINS died in Rocky Hill, July 18, 1797, of consumption; he had been practicing here some nine years previously, and was a member of the Conn. Med. Society very soon after its organization. He was married here, 10 Dec., 1785, to Nancy (dau. of William) Williams and sister of Wait Williams, and was interred among that family. He had a child named Wait Williams Higgins, who died, but when I came into the town, in 1854, the memory of Dr. Higgins had entirely disappeared.

Dr. Horsford was succeeded by Dr. DANIEL FULLER, from Columbia, who practiced here until his death, 16 Sept., 1843, in his 69th year, of erysipelas. He received the honorary degree of M. D. from Yale College, in 1831, some 27 years after beginning practice here. He is said to have been a very jovial man, full of jokes and a great mimic. He was also a teacher of music—the Church Treasurer's books showing payments to him, at various times, from 1805 to 1816, for "teaching music and leading the choir." He married Mabel (dau. of Simeon) Robbins, of Rocky Hill and lived in the old house nearly opposite the Congregational Church, for a while, which later he exchanged with Capt. Josiah Butler, for the place now owned by Dr. R. W. Griswold, and in this house he died. He left two sons, who removed to New York; and a daughter who married a clergyman named Tyler.

In 1841, Dr. A. W. BARROWS located in Rocky Hill; but, in 1848, removed to Hartford. He was from Ashford, studied medicine with Dr. Welch of Wethersfield, and graduated Y. C.; resided for a time on the Dr. Horsford place, and also on the Dr. Fuller place. He married Ann Freeman, of Mansfield, Conn.

After Dr. B.'s removal, a native of the place, Dr. SYLVESTER (son of Hosea) BULKELEY, who had been practicing several years in Haddam, Cromwell and Berlin, came here and followed his profession until

his death, 1 February, 1857, in his 70th year. He was a graduate of Y. C., of Dartmouth Medical School and resided on Bradford Hill, where he married 1825, his second wife, Nancy (dau. of William, Sen.) Bradford of Rocky Hill. A brief biography of him, by Dr. R. W. Griswold will be found in *Conn. State Med. Society Proceedings* for 1857. See, also, our *Bulkeley Genealogy*, Vol. II.

In 1834-5, a Dr. Ritter practiced for a while here, but soon removed to New York.

Dr. RUFUS W. GRISWOLD, author of this chapter, practiced here from 1854, until his death in 1902. See page —, *ante*. His three sons, physicians (Drs. Roger M., Edward H., and Julius) have been mentioned in connection with their father's memoir.

About 1880, Dr. WAIT R. GRISWOLD, then aged 59, came to Rocky Hill. He had, when a young man attended one term of lectures at Yale, and began practice in the western part of the state. During the War of the Civil Rebellion, he served for a short time, as Assistant Surgeon in the Army, then attended lectures in New York City; grad. M. D., and came first to Hartford, thence to Rocky Hill; later, was in the patent medicine business, and died 12 July, 1887, *ae.* 67.

FRANK LOUIS BURR, M. D., a native of Killingworth, Ct., grad. at Med. College in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1871, and came to Rocky Hill in 1884, having previously practiced thirteen years in Middletown, Ct.

Dr. CHARLES E. STANLEY, at one time an Assistant Physician in the State Insane Asylum, at Middletown, a graduate of University of Pennsylvania, 1876, is a native of Rocky Hill; as, also, is Dr. EVERETT S. (son of James) WARNER, graduate of Coll. of Phys. and Surgeons, N. Y. City, 1878, and now practicing in New York City.

*Physicians' Fees*, in the days of Drs. Horsford and Fuller, were much less than at present, since the cost of living was then much less than it is now. When rye was 25 cents per bushel, potatoes a shilling, and wood \$1.00 per cord, medical visits could be made for much less than now. One of Dr. Fuller's old account books, found in the garret of the house I now occupy, shows visits charged at the rate of the Yankee shilling—16  $\frac{2}{3}$  cents. He practiced here until 1843, by which time the charge for medical visits had risen to 33 and 38 cents, medicine being extra; and Dr. Barrows, who came in 1841, and left in 1848, told me he could not get the price of an ordinary visit above the latter figure. By the time I entered upon practice here, the price had augmented to 50 cents, whereas, in Wethersfield, at the same time, it was 75 cents. The figure for an ordinary obstetric case was \$3, the old fee of the midwives was \$1.00. By 1861, the price for ordinary visits

had become 62 cents, and obstetric cases \$4.00 and \$5.00. About 1861, when war prices came in for everything, the doctor's visit brought him \$1.00 and obstetric attendance \$9.00. The doctor of 75 and 100 years ago, performed twice or three times as much labor for the same money as is required of the doctor of to-day; but, as all sorts of labor were correspondingly low, and the necessities of life were less, he may have been just as well off at the end of the year. There was, at least, much less of "dead-heading" among his patients, and likely more gratitude for his services, than falls to the lot of his successor of 1890-1900.

Nearly, or quite through the period of practice of Drs. Horsford, Fuller and Barrows, medicines were mostly furnished to patients, by prescription, through the drugstore. This may have been the case, even earlier than Dr. Fuller, for there was a small line of drugs kept in the Dea. Seth Hart house (now gone) opposite Risley's present smith shop, as early as 1800, or before. Dr. Fuller became interested in the drug business in Wait Williams' store, and one of his sons was clerk there. It was continued after the doctor's death, and by Revilo Chapman. Fuller, Barrows and Bulkely sent their customers to this store for nearly all their medicines—thus making an extra bill for families of the sick, and giving them the trouble of going to the drug-shop about as often as the doctor made his visits. During the latter part of Dr. Fuller's life, the "Thompsonian" practice came into this region; also, "steam doctoring." The Thompsonian and the Botanic practice were identical and their practitioners cut the drug-shop, and carried their remedies with them—thus insuring to their patients a saving both of expense and frequent travel—and the resident physicians here lost ground. Hence, when I came here in 1854, I found it expedient to furnish medicines for my own patients. There has been no real drugstore here since, *i. e.*, for the putting up of doctors' perscriptions; but a large amount of proprietary medicines are sold in all the general stores. Thompsonian, Botanic and Steam doctoring, after a few years, fused down into what is now known as the Eclectic System of practice; and still later Homeopathy usurped the field to some extent.

*Midwives.*—Previous to 1774, we cannot learn that there was any medical practitioner located in Rocky Hill; the people, of whom by that time there were many, had to resort to Wethersfield proper for medical srvice. In child-births, the village women-midwives were called upon, as they still are in some sections. The presence of the man-doctor in the lying-in room was then considered neither proper, or necessary. The earliest woman midwife in Rocky Hill, of whom we have any trace, was "Granny GRISWOLD"—or Mrs. Mercy, second wife of Josiah Gris-



wold, who lived in the old village inn which stood nearly opposite the Edmund Bulkeley house, a little south of the existing (1880) Daniel Warner house, now owned by Justus L. Bulkeley. She died, November 3, 1819, *ae.* 82, and followed her calling until quite late in life, and probably was present at the birth of hundreds of the early Rocky Hill people. Dea. Jared G. Dimmock (who was connected with the family) relates of her that an inquisitive urchin of some eight or ten years, Chester Holmes by name, hearing of the number of babies that came into the world by the old lady's help, once asked her where she got them all, and was answered "out of my chamomile bed in the garden." The next day, Granny found her flower-bed had been completely dug over—the youngster having thoroughly explored it in search of more small children! The Dea. says she had a record of the births she had officiated at—but it has not been preserved to us.

Since from about thirty or forty years before 1850, two women divided the honors at this end of the town, *viz.*: Mrs. OLIVER (second wife and widow of Capt. Oliver, Jr.) GOODRICH and Mrs. JAMES BULKELEY, who were familiarly known as "Miss Oliver" and "Miss Jim." These two old ladies officiated at a great many births, the former was the more immediate successor of Granny Griswold; the latter had some calls up to about 1857. Among these was the wife of Walter Robbins, 1854, (calling in the services also, of Dr. Bulkeley), who was delivered of three children—all now living—at one confinement, being the only triplet case known of in the town.

In 1874, there died, in the West District, where she had mostly resided, and at the age of 80, a noteworthy old woman, generally known as "Aunt KATE WRIGHT." Late in life she married for her second husband, Alvin Collins, who lived in the little old house opposite the Nehemiah Stevens' place. Aunt Kate had quite a reputation as a doctor, and with her tall gaunt form and sharp ways, was, indeed, a character. She had a deal of knowledge of the medicinal properties of many native plants and roots, and from which she made syrups and decoctions. She compounded a salve (of Burgundy pitch, red precipitate and spirits of turpentine, and sorrel leaves, with perhaps some other ingredient), which had a wide reputation—and with which, together with some other sorrel preparation, she treated cancers (or tumors, which passed under that head), with quite as good results as those attained by "the cancer doctor," with whom all sorts of skin disease and outside sores are called cancers. She also furnished women approaching child-birth confinement, with what she called "papoose root," to render labor easy. The matron who had an easy labor, not hav-



ing taken this remedy, attributed her good fortune to kindly nature, and was right; whereas if she had taken "papoose root" she would have credited the easy labor to Aunt Kate's mixture. Out of this ease of human credulity, and without any analysis of the philosophy connected with the supposed virtues of the article used, "papoose root" had, of course, a local celebrity; and, as the old lady was shrewd enough not to disclose what the root really was, she preserved her reputation as a useful member of society—and her secret departed with her life.

Though it is a little outside of the historical to enquire what were the average results to mothers and children, of this midwife attendance at confinements, it is to be noticed that, studying the mortuary lists of the parish since 1775, (the period at which "causes of death" began to be appended to the names of deceased, on the records) the words, "in child bed"—"in childbed confinement,"—occur with a frequency much in excess of the mortalities from the same cause, as recorded in the present day. This fact is significant.

*Indians.*—It does not appear that the region now known as Rocky Hill had any especial Indian name, or that there was within its limits any Indian village or settlement. It may, indeed, be doubted if there was any such settlement within the limits of the original town of Wethersfield. Evidences, however, point to an Indian settlement along the Mattabesett River, at and south of Beckley Quarter, in Berlin. The sub-tribe at this point were known as the Mattabesetts—a branch of the Wongunks, whose hunting grounds and nominal ownership extended over the region on both sides of the river as far south as the straits below Middletown—which latter place bore the name of Mattabesett. Sowheag was apparently the Sachem of this whole region; Judge Adams thinks his seat, or home, was at Beckley Quarter; basing his conjecture upon the fact that Sowheag's successor, Tarramuggus, in 1670, sold to Richard Beckley, the Settler, 300 acres of land lying around the Mattabesett, at that point near the southwest corner of Wethersfield, but now in the town of Berlin. But, the aborigines ranged at large and hunted over the present Rocky Hill territory. Small game was abundant in the woods, the streams were well stocked with fish. Dividend Brook, below the falls of the Beckly mill site was then doubtless full of shad, and alewives, in the spring, could be easily caught at that spot. Goffe's Brook, at about where the bridge now is, was a favorite resort of "whops" during the spring freshets, and we may reasonably suppose that the Indians fished out quantities of them every season, since this place has continued to be a favorite fishing place down to within twenty years. Beaver, musk-rat and mink

were abundant along the streams and in the meadows; woodchuck were on the hillsides and skunks in the plains; rabbits and squirrels peopled the woods; partridges were plenty in the bushes and quail in the open, and the wild turkey had not quite departed. It was upon such that the Indian depended far more for his sustenance than upon what he raised from the ground; work was not his *forte*, and occupied but little of his time or attention.

*Slaves.*—The records of Stepney parish mention in May, 1768, the marriage of Dick, servant of Elias Williams, and Rose, servant of David Webb; October 10, 1782, of Newport, servant of Elisha Callender and Rose, servant of Elisha Wolcott; August 29, 1789, of Thomas Palmer, a free negro, and Jinny, servant of John Robbins, Esq. These marriages were like those of their white masters, and the ceremony was performed by the minister of the parish. Regular marriages like these seem to have been of rather rare occurrences, the connection of the slaves being more often of a left-handed nature. The mortuary record gives the death in 1781, of Frank, servant of Samuel Foster; in 1785, of Dick, servant of Elias Williams; in 1788, of Lucy, servant of Moses Williams; in 1793, a negro child in the family of Jacob Riley (Riley having a family of slaves, some of whom were in his care, off and on, through the first quarter of the present century); and in 1800, of Rose, black servant of Captain William Griswold.

These black chattels are never spoken of in the record as *slaves*, but always as "servants."

Slaves are first mentioned in 1690; but in 1672, the General Court decreed: "That if any *servant* shall flee from the Tyranny or Cruelty of his, or her, master, to the house of any Inhabitant of the same Town, they shall there be protected and sustained till due Order be taken for their relief."

In a report made to the Home Government, from the Colony in 1680, it was said: "And for Blacks, there comes sometimes 3 or 4 in a year from Barbadoes; and they are sold usually at the rate of 22 li [£ ?] apiece, sometimes more and sometimes less, according as men can agree with the masters of vessels, or merchants that bring them hither."

The *Boston Gazette*, of July 30, 1764, (three months before *The Connecticut Courant* was founded) had this item:

"We hear from Rocky Hill, Conn., that a negro belonging to Mr. Boundykee [Brandagee in the present spelling], having been offended, took a knife and flint, and ran up to the garrett, where there was a half barrel of powder, and struck fire therein, which blew the negro and the roof of the house into the air, and tore him to pieces; and a

man in the house saw him strike fire once, which did not catch, and saved himself by running down stairs just before the explosion."

This house which had its roof blown off stood where the south end of the front building of the Pierce Hardware Company now does, and was burned in 1876. When the railroad was built through here, in 1871, the bones of a man were unearthed a few rods below the scene of this incident; and they were believed to be those of that suicidal negro servant of 1764.

It is notorious that many New England bottoms, all along down through the last century, were used in the slave trade. Vessels left New England ports for Lisbon or the Canary Islands "and a market," and the *market* was the west coast of Africa, and the return cargo a load of blacks for West India ports or the Southern ports of the Colonies. This business was of a clandestine character, but was winked at, and not reckoned morally criminal. In the burying ground at Rocky Hill is a tombstone on which is cut—Captain Richard Dunn of Newport, R. I., died 1791, aged 69. Captain Dunn's daughter Mary married Alexander Grimes of Rocky Hill, and the captain spent his last days here and died here. It is of tradition among the people now living here who were born in the first quarter of the last century, that Captain Dunn had made a fortune in the slave trade, but had lost it before coming to Rocky Hill to spend his last days. Narragansett bay was the home of many vessels surreptitiously engaged in transporting blacks from Africa. Whether or not the same sort of trade was carried on from the wharves of Rocky Hill cannot be known; but the probabilities are that some of it was done, for the good people here were not less enterprising than other New Englanders, and quite as ready to make an honest dollar. If a vessel out of the Connecticut was gone six or nine months on a trading voyage, only the crew and the owners knew where she had cruised to.

It is of some interest to note that the negroes, whether slaves or freed, did not sit in the meeting house in either the body of the building below, or in the galleries. In the present building of the Rocky Hill Ecclesiastical Society a special sort of box or stall was made for them. This was high up behind the singer's gallery, and at the farthest possible remove from the pulpit. It was the same in nearly all New England meeting houses. Provision was made for the blacks to go and hear the preached gospel on the Sabbath; but this was probably rather more for the purpose of knowing where they were on Sunday than with the hope of doing them special good; for our forefathers of that day hardly appreciated the possibility that the negro had a soul worth



saving, nor, as Justice Taney expressed it in the Dred Scott case, did they recognize that he had "any right which a white man was bound to respect," though they were, without doubt, as comfortably cared for by the owners as any white hired man or woman, and often supported when they were past rendering any service.

There is not much doubt that these "blacks" from Barbadoes or other West India Islands were inveigled on board vessels with the promise of transportation to freedom, and sold as slaves, on the arrival of the vessel home. The conscience of the white master or mistress was less disturbed over such a transaction than it would have been over the theft and sale of a horse. Our "forbears," both those who were godly and prayerful, and those who were rough and blasphemous, though tenacious for freedom for themselves and ready to fight for it, seemed to be oblivious of the fact that a "nigger" had any right to the same glorious heritage. What the nigger needed was a master to take care of him.

In 1730, the number of slaves, Indians and negroes, in the Colony was estimated at about 700. In 1756, there were 3,587 blacks and in 1774, 6,464, and in that year further importation of slaves into the Colony was prohibited. This, however, troubled our worthy captains and merchants very little, since the Southern Colonies afforded a readier and better market for this kind of stock. It is worthy of note, in connection with this prohibitive legislation, that the reason assigned for it in the preamble to the act was that "the increase of slaves in the Colony is injurious to the poor, and inconvenient." That there was any turpitude in the existence of slavery, seems not to have occurred to the legislators, or else the thought was concealed beneath the consciousness of what was best for his own material interest.

*Tobacco.*—Mention has been made of tobacco as one of the products of the early settlers in the Connecticut valley. I suppose some was grown here. The General Court in 1753, passed this vote:

"That each town in this colony wherein tobacco is or shall be raised for exportation shall at their annual town-meetings for electing town officers, choose two or more fit persons to be surveyors and packers of tobacco for the year ensuing, who shall carefully survey and search the tobacco by them to be packed, and shall cull out and report all such brands of tobacco as are in whole or in part damaged by the infusion of anything liquid, or by being kept too moist, or by frost, heat or by any other means whatsoever; and shall pack or press no tobacco but what is by him judged to be sound, well ripened, sufficiently cured, and every way good and merchantable."



It does not appear that very large amounts of tobacco were sent from here in the earlier days of our history. When the manufacture of cigars was introduced, it was the custom in many families for the women to employ their leisure time, from domestics duties proper, in cigar making. The stemming of the leaves, and the sorting of wrapper from filler, the cutting out and the rolling, were done by the same work-woman. Much of the tobacco grown was "made up" in this way and the cigars were traded off at the stores for such groceries as the family needed. This domestic manufacture continued down to the opening of the civil war of 1861. These home-made products were commonly known as "barn-yard cigars". They answered just as good purpose in making a nasty mouth as the finest grades of Havanas.

*Onions.*—A considerable share of the onions raised here and sent off by one and another mode of conveyance were "bunched." The bunching of onions seems in a fair way to become one of the lost arts of farm life in Connecticut. The work was mostly done by the women. Onions were so "stripped" (that is deprived of the wilted top) as to leave a shriveled stem of about one and a half to two inches long. In bunching, the large onions were thrown out to be sold by the bushel. Seated on the barn or corn-house floor, with an old skirt tied around the waist and over the every-day dress, to keep off some part of the dirt, with her legs extended straight out in front, a pile of onions at the left hand and a bundle of rye straw cut to about twenty-two inches in length, a ball of twine and an old case knife, the woman was ready to begin work. Taking ten or a dozen straws and clasping them together, the twine was wound half a dozen times around the large end of the bundle; this formed the core. The woven end of the core was thrust between the legs, so that the core stood straight up its full length. With the left hand an onion was picked up and its stem laid against the straw; with the right hand, the twine was carried once around the core, including in the wind the stem of the onion; a second onion was treated in the same way, and so on, building up a four cornered "string" of the length of sixteen to twenty inches; the larger onions used being put at the bottom and the smallest at the top, on a gradual taper. The twine was fastened at the top by pulling it four or five times between the straws; and the bunch was thus finished. The workwomen were paid so much the hundred bunches.

As this work was no impediment to conversation, the women were fond of bunching, with half a dozen around the same heap. Then they sized up the parson, dissected the doctor, castigated the school teacher, ham-strung the singing master, weighed the grocery man, measured the

taylor, waxed the cobbler, and hammered the blacksmith. What was not discussed was not worth talking about in that bailiwick. To the male philosopher who sat on the up-turned half-bushel measure and stimulated the conversation by an occasional leading observation on men and things in the village, there was more room for fun than is afforded by any modern circus.

The "weeding" part of the raising of onions and garlic, up to 25 years ago, was done by the women, who in the performance of that duty, crawled along upon their hands and knees. Very few of the farmers' wives and daughters were too aristocratic to weed onions; and their labor in that direction was a most important help to thrift in the family. Nowadays, however, a woman in the onion field, would be almost a curiosity. This change is due, partly, to progress in the condition of the female part of the population; and partly to the fact that the labor is not as remunerative, as formerly; for it is a truth that the soil has, during the past 30 years, lost some of its former productive quality for onion raising—though some are still grown. Up to about 1850, onions were sown in drills, by hand; the women crawling over the ground to scatter in the seed. But, about that time, seed-sowing machines came into use, and greatly abridged the labor. Carrots, parsnips, beets, cabbage and lettuce were often grown with the onions.

Onions had become a considerable article for export from here, and some other places in the state, (Wethersfield being early famed for this product) before 1750. In 1760, the General Court made this enactment: "Whereas there are great quantities of onions raised in this Colony for a market, and it is become a custom to make up the greatest part of them in ropes or bunches, and no rule has been fixed for the number, weight, or measure, contained in each bunch, for want of which great inequality and injustice hath happened; for remedy whereof

*Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same:* That for the future no onions shall be offered for sale that are not good and merchantable, well cured and dry, nor shall any bunches of them be sold or offered for sale, or put into any land or water carriage to be transported to market that are not fully cured, well and firmly bunched, and of five pounds weigh at least." The penalty for selling or offering for sale, or transport any bunched onions that did not meet this requirement was "sixpence for each bunch that shall fall short of the weight aforesaid." In 1821 a similar enactment was made, with the difference that the weight of the bunches was put at three pounds and a half, and they were to be inspected by a legally chosen inspector. What attention, after the

last named date, was paid to the law, I cannot learn; but it was not very long after that time that each owner had his onions roped to suit himself, and bargained them off without inspection save by the purchaser. There was a large difference made in the size of the bunches; and when the crops of the different farmers were put into the same vessel-load and sent off to be sold on commission, it was often the case that the large bunches of one man helped to sell the small ones of another, and the better bunches returned no more money. Up to steamboating days, bunched onions were counted out of the carts on to the deck of the vessel at the dock, or into the hold, and shipped, off in bulk; in later years many of the ropes were packed in barrels and headed up. This was for greater facility in handling. The larger onions were commonly shipped in barrels, and were also headed in.

*Old Trees.*—The elms on the west side of Main St., from the Centre School House north to the Chester B. Goodrich lot and south to the Church, were set out about 1862, by Rev. Geo. Muir Smith. The trees on Old School-House Park and around the corner northeast and northwest were set out by Dr. Rufus W. Griswold from 1862-66, and the park leveled up and filled in in places. There is here a mixture of elms, maples, ash and horse chesnuts.

The elms on the triangle of the M. E. Church property, were set out by some members of that Society, at about the same period. The old elms on Elm St. have been there many years—probably about 1810, and very likely at the instigation of Rev. Dr. Chapin, who was ever active in all matters of public importance. Mr. Merriam Williams was associated with him in this work.

A fine double row of shade trees, for about three-fourths of the length of New France, or Farms St., set out, about 1850, by the dwellers on that street, render it one of the most delightful roads in the town. The elms in front of Chester Goodrich's barn were set out by him, in 1840 and 1845; and those across the street in front of the Levi-Robbins-Riley place, were probably set out by Mr. Robbins.

The fine sycamores in front of the Capt. Daniel A. Mills place, are probably now 75 or 100 years old, and the fine group of 4 sycamores, near Lewis Whitman's joiner-shop, on the turnpike, are probably of nearly the same age; and there are some good specimens of the tree in front of the Bradford Hill house. The sycamore is not indigenous, the original in this country having been imported from England.

The row of large old maples, inside the fence of the Squire Joseph Bulkeley homestead, were doubtless set out by him as far back, or before 1800, as also the large elm in front. About the same time,

probably, were set the fine row of maples on south side of South St., on the Elias Williams' homestead—most of which have been cut down within the last two decades of years. The row originally extended to where the residence of Edward Allen, deceased, now stands.

The trees along the bank, east of the traveled road on Hartford Ave., from the Morton property north to the hotel, are some of them a hundred years old; and near Mr. Deane's smith-shop is a (live) sycamore stump measuring 21 ft. circumference, three ft. from the ground and 8 ft. up, where it begins to branch, 23 ft.

WAYS OF LIVING.—*In the Olden Time.*—The "living" of the people of the parish for the first 150 years was very plain. Of wild game and fish they had a good supply. One of the most common dishes was "bean porridge." This was usually made of salt beef and pork boiled with beans to a mush, and seasoned with herbs. Of tea and coffee they had very little till the latter part of the 18th century. From 1650 to 1750, the chief drinks, after water, were milk and home brewed beer. The brewing of beer was in most families as regular a part of the domestic life as the making of rye bread. From after about 1750, apple orchards had come into full bearing, and cider began to take the place of beer as a steady drink on the table. The apples grown were mostly cider-fruit, very few were winter-keepers. Large orchards were without a tree of winter apples; and it was not till down after 1800 that winter-keeping apples were grown to any extent. Butcher carts and fish carts, for peddling, were not known. Farmers killed their own beeves, and salted down what was not consumed fresh. Exchanges of fresh beef, veal, mutton and pork, around the neighborhood, were common. A killed a calf the 1st of April; B another the 1st of May, and C, another the 1st of June, and by "swapping off" the three families used up the three calves. Very much more corn-meal was eaten than now, and it was much better for the health of the people than the fine wheat flour diet of to-day. There were no carpets on the floors; furniture was plain, and not much of it. The common table-ware was pewter; but a few of the most wealthy families boasted of their silver tankards and beakers for family use. Stoves were not known till long after 1800. The long "settle," with its high back to keep off the draught of air from the windows, was hauled around in front or to one angle of the big fire place—seldom less than six feet wide and often eight—and on this the family made itself comfortable in the long winter evenings. The up-stairs sleeping rooms were seldom "done off," and in them was no lack of fresh air. Woolen sheets to sleep in were in general use for winter, and on extra cold nights the long-handled brass warming-pan,



heated with coals from the fire place, was run through each bed before the children crawled in for the night. Whether this style was not better for the health of the youngsters than the heated rooms of the present fashion is an open question. Rubber shoes and boots were things unknown. All our fathers and mothers, till after 1800, depended upon cow-hide for winter wear. Very few of the men wore boots; high shoes were the usual foot wear; these were well filled with beef tallow, to keep out the water. When the snow was deep people pulled on old long stockings, and tied them around the shoes, and in that way kept out the snow. This old stocking was called a "leggin." In warm weather all children, and most adults, went bare-footed. Young women had thin shoes and stockings for Sunday wear; but if they walked to meeting (and very few rode) they *carried* their shoes and stockings to some place not far from the meeting house, then washed their feet and put on the foot gear. Going home, the shoes and stockings were taken off and carried. In this way one pair of shoes lasted longer than six do now. In numerous ways, people studied like economists, and thus became "fore-handed," besides raising their large families of children. The real necessities of life are but few; but as between what the people of even one hundred years ago in our village, and in all New England villages, considered the necessities and what to-day are considered such, there is a long list of articles.

*Snow Storm of 1888.*—March 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1888, gave western and southern New England and Southern New York what was probably the biggest snow storm of the section since 1717. Rocky Hill had its share of the snow. There was no travel for three days. Snow banks were drifted all the way up from bare ground in some places to depths of 8, 10, 12 and 15 feet. The road to West Rocky Hill was not dug through till Friday of the week after. . . . The potential forces for breaking out roads after snow storms were much better 100 and 150 years ago than they have been in the last 20 years. Those potential forces were of three kinds—first, more young men than now in the farm houses of the town, and nearly all ready for a "lark;" second, three or four times as many yokes of oxen in the place as can be found to-day; and thirdly, open taverns and stores in the village, where free good cheer to the drivers and shovelers was certain to be dispensed when the teams came around. Crackers and cheese, washed down with a hot whisky punch or a mug of flip, were expected at The Landing or at the taverns on Main street, and mugs of cider at the farm houses along the route. With these incitements ahead, "breaking out the roads" after big snow storms was simply *fun* for all the boys. Now, the boys have mostly left for the

larger places; the cattle have become slaughtered, and are not replaced; and the potency of flip and cider is ruled out entirely. As for the last of the three factors in road breakings, it is probably better that it has been mostly banished; nevertheless, snow drifts are not conquered with the readiness and ease witnessed in the older time.

Speaking of the potency of this last named factor, Mr. Williams tells this about his uncle Joshua, an older brother of John. Joshua was a Congregational clergyman, and preached many years in Harwinton, Ct., where one of his daughters married the then Abijah Catlin, a hatter. One time Joshua visited the old homestead and his brother John. After some congratulatory talk the Rev. Joshua asked, if they had "any rum in the house"? "No," said his brother; "but I have some capital home-made gin;" whereupon the decanter was put out, and the young Charles was astonished to see his Reverend uncle take a very big drink. Charles never followed the good uncle's example. Hot toddies did not come amiss to the clergymen of those days.

There is a funny story about Rev. John Joshua and his son-in-law Catlin. Catlin had the habit of frequently quoting the *forcible* words of the Bible. The father-in-law called him to account for the habit. "But you use the same words," said Catlin. "Yes, said Williams, but I don't use them to swear: I can say 'by God' three times in succession, and not swear." "I'll bet a hat you can't," responded Catlin. "Agreed," said the preacher. The next Sunday, in his pulpit discourse, the Rev. Williams got it in, in a proper place, and in a proper way—"by God we live, by God we breathe, and by God we have our being;" and "by God," said Catlin from his pew, "*you shall have the hat.*"

*Rocky Hill Township* was incorporated in May, 1843. As early in the century as 1816, there had been an unsuccessful attempt in this direction; and, it may be said that at that date Stepney Parish, both as to houses, population and industrial resources, was quite as well able—if not more so—to take care of itself as an independent community, as it was 27 years later. The enumeration of its population in 1779 was 881, which included such people as may have been north of Goffe's bridge to Dix's Corner, on the main road, but did not include such as may have been living on the road north of the Dea. Joel Goodrich place and thence west to Beekley Quarter, which would quite balance off the people north of Goffe's Bridge—and this enumeration of 1779, it must be remembered, was in the midst of the Revolutionary War, and in a season of great depression. It was after the close of the War that the place began to experience an increase of its maritime business and consequent trade, ship-building and connected industries—and this was

accompanied by an increase of population. From 1780 to 1820 ensued a period full of promise and of indications that the place would become a place of more importance than it has ever been since. Indeed, it *was* then of more importance. The records of the two Library associations established here in 1794-5 show a better list of male adults than could be gathered to-day. There might not have been as many dwellings within the town limits as now; but they averaged more persons to a dwelling; and it is by no means certain that there were not as many houses; for there were houses then standing at several places where are none now. Between 1800 and 1860, it is not likely that there was much, if any, increase of population. There were, indeed, probably more people in the town in 1816, than at the time of its incorporation in 1843. In 1850, the population was 1004; in 1860, it was 1042; in 1870, 1012; in 1880, 1109 and this last enumeration had the benefit of all doubtful cases. The culminating point of Rocky Hill's population was from 1872 to '74, directly after the opening of the railroad—at which time there was a small "boom" and a slight increase (perhaps 150) in the population, taking it up to about 1150, or possibly a little higher. After 1875, some injudicious alteration of the R. R. time-schedules, affecting the convenience of workmen, between Ry-H. and Hartford, destroyed the small evidence of life previously shown and the population began to diminish, until in 1880, it was a little over 1000.

From the figures above given, and from some collateral evidence, it appears that from about 1790, or a little earlier, the population of the place, varying from time to time has only about held its own. Taking all this period together, the natural increase (rather in proportion to the number of inhabitants in the last quarter of the 18th and first quarter of the 19th, than since) has been in excess of the deaths; but, the excess of *emigration* over *immigration* has kept the population about evenly balanced. Whilst we have had, since 1850, an incoming of inhabitants, mostly from Ireland, there has been a corresponding out-going of the descendants of the English first settlers. The homes and acres of the Connecticut Yankee have been passing into the hands of the emigrant from Europe; the children of the former have gone to the City, or to the West, and the character of the population is rapidly changing.

To one looking over the town to-day, and seeing the number of houses that have been erected in the forty years past, there would seem to be a greater increase in dwellings, than the facts would warrant. If we begin at the North end of town, investigation will prove that at places now vacant, there were formerly some 50 dwelling houses.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In the period from 1775 to 1825, (1) the Heart house at the meadow gate;

These old buildings once stood, where is now a *vacancy* of all human life and action. The list given does not include those short-lived houses built at a later date and now, also, gone; nor those dwellings standing where new have since been built. It represents *losses* in dwelling houses and serves to show that, in the half century mentioned there was more to the town in almost every way than it can boast of to-day, so far as relates to its material property.

[Dr. Griswold's Mss. contains much more of more modern date concerning Real Estate and Buildings of the period between 1854 and 1885, than our limits will permit of printing in full. He gives a list (with owners' names, date of erection and location) of buildings erected within that period—numbering 97 in all—; and shows that while, for a short period following the building of the railroad through Rocky Hill, there was a great influx of new comers and a correspondingly increase in new buildings—(so that real estate took on correspondingly fancy prices)—yet an unwise lack of accommodation on the part of the railroad, checked the impetus of improvement and relegated the town to its former dullness.—EDITOR.]

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(2) the Zebulon Robbins house halfway up the hill; (3) another Robbins house south of where Hiram Baldwin lived; (4) a Boardman house just north of the old one now standing; (5) the Edwards house north of the Neff place; (6) the Goodale house, south of T. A. Arnold's; (7) the Morton house, north of the present brick Morton house; (8) the Belden house opposite Wait Warner's; (9) the Riley house in the corner below; (10) in Meadow Lane, the Mosley house; (11) the Chapman and (12) Callender houses; (13) the Candee house, where the factory is; (14) two houses on the ship yard reservation; (15) the old Hezekiah Grimes' home a little north; (16) the Sophronia Dickinson house west of the R. R. freight depot; (17) the "Long Tavern" north of the R. R. passenger station; (18) the Graham house on Bradford Hill; (19) the Hart house opposite Risley's smith's shop; (20) the Smith house west of the Burying Ground; the Griswold-Hickock house N. of the Burying Ground; (22) Robinson; (23), Shailer; (24) Levi Godrich and (25) Prescott Bulkeley houses below the Burying Ground; the (26) Jagger Bulkeley house north of the South School house; (27) a Butler house near the IX mile stone; (28) a Bulkeley house by the sand bank north of Down Hill; (29) the Collins house on Plains St.; (30) a house on the Russell property on Spring St.; (31) another beyond Michael Rawlings, and (32) one each of Chester Beldens; (33 and 34) Blinn houses on Cabull road; one (35) on the Shunpike opposite the head of Plains St.; (36) the Wright house opposite the head of New Francis St.; (37 and 38) Blinn houses on same St.; (39 and 40) Belden houses at end of same St.; (41) one by the west School house; (42) one opposite the Dea. Williams place; (43) one towards the foot of the hill; (44) the Roger Goodrich house at the turn east of the woods; (45) one south of the west end of Parsonage St.; (46) the old Nott house, first north of the Thos. Robbins-Goff house; (47) a Riley house, south of the Levi Robbins place; (48) an old Wright house, at or near the Andrew Miller place—and probably one or two more not heard of—in all, a *round fifty*—which probably housed some 300 people.



The township contains about 13 sq. miles of territory; is about  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles in breadth from north to south on the east side in a straight line; about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from north to south, through the west district and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from north to south, through its narrow portion next to Berlin and in the Beekley Quarter school district. It is about 5 miles in a straight line from The Landing, at the River, westward to the Berlin boundary, and a little short of that distance on its south or Cromwell line.

The *physical features* of the township are what would be called rolling land. Except the top of Iron Stone Hill and a dozen acres, or so, on the north side of the Plains road in the West District, of sand-blow, there is scarcely an acre of land that is not, or could not be made productive, either as plow, pasture or meadow land, or for productive forest growth. The soil is mostly reddish clay, mixed with vegetable loam, except those parts called The Plains and the section along the turnpike below Cole's Hill, and the Dividend Plains, which approximate to the sandy, but are ordinarily productive.

The *productions* of this turnpike have been hay (especially on the meadows); corn, potatoes, rye, buckwheat, oats, beans, pumpkins and squashes; apples in full quantities, cherries and plums; and, early in its history, flax; for many years considerable quantities of broom corn; for many generations, large amounts of onions and some garlic; but for the past 20 years the production of these two last articles has pretty much ceased; carrots, parsnips, cabbages, turnips in abundance: in later years, most of the small garden fruits, and considerable tobacco.

## ERRATA.

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- Page 86 line 9, of *note*. For Gen. "Leonard R. Welles," read Gen. Leonard Welles.
- Page 165, line 13. For "Mohagan," read *Monhagan*.
- Page 174, line 16. For "haywarder's," read *haywardens*.
- Page 187, line 9, from bottom of page. For "present time," read *until time of his death*.
- Page 192, last line. For "Wm. Hone," read *Wm. House*.
- Page 245, line 4. For "Chapt. XIX," read *Chapt. XVIII*.
- Page 250, line 17. For Weller, read *Welles*.
- Page 253, line 7, from bottom of page. For "Jehu," read *Jehiel*.
- Page 277, line 22. For "France's," read *Francis'*.
- Page 287, line 16. For "appointed," read *appreciated*.
- Page 305, line 24. For "Bronsford," read *Branford*.
- Page 314, line 6. For "Trumbell," read *Trumbull*.
- Page 323, line 16. For "General," read *Gencal*.
- Page 329, line 26. For "Chapter XIX," read *Chapter XVIII*.
- Page 378, line 20. Same as above.
- Page 385, line 2. For "Woodridge," read *Woodbridge*.
- Page 411, 4th line from bottom of page. For "1713," read *1763*.
- Page 436, line 13 from bottom, in second column. For "Beekley," read *Beckley*.
- Page 437, line 16. For "Dellapy," read *Dellaby*.
- Page 465, line 11. Insert between end of this line and beginning of next, *to provide for soldiers*.
- Page 466, line 3, second column. For "Wetherwell," read *Wetherell*. Line 22, second column. For "Konte," read *Knote*.
- Page 529, line 15. For "Ashbel," read *Asahel*.
- Page 534, line 26. For "Gershun," read *Gershon*.
- Page 577, line 8. For "Jittsfield," read *Pittsfield*.
- Page 579, line 21. For "David A. Mills," read *Daniel A*.
- Page 586, line 10 from bottom. For "some section," read *same section*.
- Page 594, line 10 from bottom. Insert *m.* between Crafts Wright and Martha.
- Page 617. The *date* of Mr. Wm. G. Comstock's death was 4th Aug., 1899.
- Page 630. The number of prisoners in the State Prison was 473 in 1902.
- Page 631. Line 7 from bottom. After the word "demolished," read *and the village now has a hook and ladder company*, known as "Hope Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1," which is housed in a building erected for the purpose in 1872 or '73.
- Page 664, line 9. "Mix, Dr. Rev.," should read *Rev. and Dr*.
- Page 728, line 22. For "Staltonstall," read *Saltonstall*.
- Page 729, line 25. For "not owned," should read *now owned*.

# GENERAL INDEX.

In this Index, the names of the three Towns forming the *Ancient Wethersfield*, are thus abbreviated: Wethersfield, *Weth.*; Newington, *New.*; Rocky Hill, *Ry-H.* Abbreviations used in this work. (p. 15.)

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